

US finds IRA arms link

Five Belfast men who were arrested trying to cross into the United States from Canada are suspected of being part of one of the IRA's most important gun-running rings. The United States Department of Immigration said the men were carrying nearly £10,000 in cash and were travelling on forged Irish passports. **Back page**

Turnabout for number plates

Car number plates will use the present format in reverse when the series of suffix letters denoting year of registration expires next year. A typical plate could read: A 123 BCD. Driving test fees will be increased from £10.30 to £13 from the beginning of next month. **Page 15**

Oil price cuts threat

An emergency meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) is in prospect in order to discuss the dramatic state of price cutting that is threatening stability on world oil markets. **Page 5**

School religion 'should stay'

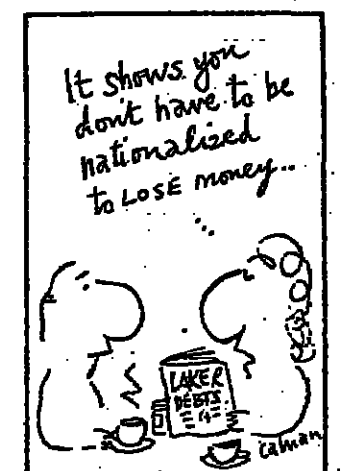
A Commons select committee recommends the retention of the statutory obligation to provide religious education to all pupils, and the continued existence of voluntary denominational schools. **Page 5**

Poland reopens universities

Polish universities, which were closed after the imposition of martial law in December, reopened under strict new disciplinary regulations. The Polish authorities, meanwhile, have called for public discussion of a possible resumption of trade union activity. **Page 6**

Question on lead is barred

Mr Jeff Rooker, Labour MP for Birmingham, Perry Barr, has been stopped by Whitehall regulations from asking questions in Parliament about the letter on lead poisoning by Sir Henry Yellowlees, the Government's Chief Medical Officer, published in *The Times* yesterday. **Page 3**



Woman's rape case setback

The Scottish Lord Advocate said he was unable to support an attempt by a Glasgow woman to bring a private prosecution against three teenage youths who allegedly raped her. The woman is at the centre of the controversy which led to the downfall of the former Scottish Solicitor General.

Briton sought

Tokyo police are seeking a Briton who is missing after a hotel fire which killed 32 guests. The fire is believed to have started in his room on the ninth floor. **Page 3**

England changes

England have dropped Marcus Rose and Huw Davies for the Rugby Union international against France in Paris on February 22. They are replaced by Nick Stringer and Les Cusworth. **Page 19**

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Letters: On the Employment Bill, from Mr John Lyons; European Court of Justice, from Mr H. F. O. Bowsher; universities, from Mr R. G. Chapman

Leading articles: Lead in petrol; Madrid conference; agricultural tenancies
Features, pages 9, 10
Britain's Trident dilemma; Rothchild's under Mitterrand; Jeremy Thorpe's new job; Fashion—Sury Menkes looks at suits for spring
Obituary, page 12
Mr Ben Nicholson, OM, Mr John Hay Whitney

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Union reform Bill is backed by Williams

By Hugh Noyes, Parliamentary Correspondent

Mrs Shirley Williams last night voted with the other SDP leaders in the Commons for the controversial Employment Bill, which was controversially presented from the Labour front bench as a measure that would weaken the trade unions, damage industrial relations and bring about one of the most bitter and divisive periods within memory.

So, at its first important parliamentary test, the leadership of the Social Democrat and Liberal alliance presented a united front in support of industrial relations legislation, even though some of the rank and file diplomatically absented themselves from the division.

There was a lively start to the debate on the Second Reading of the Bill, as Mr William Rodgers, for the SDP, and Mr Eric Varley, Labour's spokesman, both of whom poured scorn on the position of the SDP, can only be taken as an indication of the fierce in which the new partnership is held by the two main parties in the House.

None of this, however, could disguise the difficulty for Mr Rodgers of having to support the Government's legislation while at the same time still appearing as the friend of the trade unions.

To loud jeers from the Labour benches Mr Rodgers told the House that he was a recent convert to legislation of this kind. His conversion had come during the winter of 1978-79, when events at that time were absolutely decisive in making his decision. He would never have believed that trade unionists would refuse to sand the roads at a risk to life or would prevent people from entering hospitals or would refuse to bury the dead.

Yet all those things had happened and he now believed that the Government's Bill was absolutely right and necessary.

to look at the scope for legislation.

Mr Rodgers, describing the Government's intention as "intolerable and disastrous", said that progress could be made on reform of industrial relations only if the Conservatives had less party political bias and if Mr Varley considered the merits of the case and the power and abuse of trade unions today.

The idea that this Bill would destroy the trade unions was farcical, Mr Rodgers said. Both sides of the House were deceiving the country over this legislation. This was a modest Bill and not a major measure that would change the face of industrial relations. Neither was it a Bill that would do great damage to the industrial fabric of the country.

At that point Mr Tebbit intervened and said that he had never claimed that the Bill was an enormous reform of industrial legislation. It was a modest Bill and he was not seeking to transform the whole framework of industrial relations law. For many of us, Mr Tebbit went on to angry shouts from the Labour benches, the cause of liberty required more commitment than to hold hands and sing the "Red Flag".

The Bill tried to provide specific remedies for real abuses, to give effective protection where it was shown to be necessary and to redress imbalances of bargaining power. It was impossible to exclude the operation of the law from industrial relations.

Mr Varley spent almost as much time attacking the SDP as he did in attacking the Bill. The SDP, he said, was engaged in nothing more than an exercise in opportunism and Mr Roy Jenkins considered that the best way of getting a seat in the Commons was as Mr Tebbit's poodle. He hoped that Mr Jenkins would be proud to tell the unemployed in Glasgow how his friends in the House had scurried into the same lobby as the Tories to support the Government's Bill (Mr Tebbit).

Frank Johnson, back page

BR loss running to £150m, unions told

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

British Rail last night told union leaders that it was rapidly running out of money because of the train drivers' strikes, now in their fifth week and expected in "stark" terms to result in long-term losses of £150 million.

Sir Peter Parker, BR chairman, said that an approach to the Government would be made in 14 days for permission to borrow extra funds to meet the losses now running at more than £50 million. Meanwhile the committee of inquiry into the dispute meets for the first time this morning to take evidence in spite of the footplatemen's refusal to attend.

BR, the National Union of Railwaymen and the white collar Transport Salaried Staffs Association will give evidence in private to the inquiry, headed by Lord McCarthy.

The decision to proceed without the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (Aslef) was agreed by Aslef and the other two inquiry members, Mr George Doughty, former white collar engineering union leader, and Mr Ted Choppin, ex-managing director of Esso, after discussions over the weekend.

Sir Peter told a meeting of the Rail Council, the industry's highest consultative body, which was boycotted yesterday by Aslef, that BR was at the moment exceeding its external financing limit (the borrowing ceiling set by the Government) by more than £50 million. If private strikes continue throughout this month, the £920m external financing limit will be exceeded by £90m. Permanent losses of traffic represented revenue shortfalls

of between £50m and £150m, the unions were told.

After the meeting Mr Tom Jenkins, general secretary of the TSSA, said that he believed the strikes and subsequent losses would lead to cuts in railway mileage, station closures and job losses. "I am very worried about the situation", Mr Jenkins said.

The two unions and members of the British Railways Board who attended the meeting agreed that Sir Peter should write to Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Transport, seeking a meeting when the strikes are over to discuss electrification.

Mr Ray Buckton, Aslef general secretary, said last night that his union had decided not to attend the Rail Council meeting because "we felt in the present situation it would be hypocritical" for BR to call a meeting to explain its financial position when it could quickly solve the dispute by honouring the agreement to pay 3 per cent from January and putting the productivity dispute into the normal negotiating machinery.

However, BR officials last night remained adamant that they would not consider paying the 3 per cent until it was clear that Aslef would honour productivity agreements, particularly on flexible rostering.

Lord McCarthy said yesterday that the inquiry team felt it would not be practical to make a further attempt to persuade Aslef to co-operate with the inquiry. The union had objected to the terms of reference and its own suggestions for the lines the inquiry should adopt were rejected by BR and the other two unions.

Iranian guerrilla commander 'shot and killed'

By Our Foreign Staff

Iranian Revolutionary Guards have shot and killed Mr Musa Khatibani, the Mujahedin commander, at a hide-out in north Tehran, according to Iran radio yesterday. Mr Khatibani's wife and 10 other members of the central leadership were also killed, it said, including the wife of Mr Masoud Rajavi, the exiled Mujahedin leader.

Informed sources believe that the report is true, and that it so represents an important success against the rebels.

The Tehran authorities allege that guerrillas under Mr Khatibani carried out the bombings that killed several Iranian leaders last year.

Thorpe's new job causes a stir

By Lucy Hodges

The appointment of Mr Jeremy Thorpe, the former Liberal leader, to be the new director of the British section of Amnesty International was greeted with shock by members of the organization yesterday.

Mr Cosmas Desmond, the former director who was dismissed after internal quarrels, was amazed. "He is the last person I would have thought of", he said. "He's a political high flier and there is a lot of grudge in that sort of job."

Another member of Amnesty, who preferred not to be named,

said he was shattered. Amnesty badly needed a solid hand at the wheel, someone with experience of running that kind of organization who could put its financial affairs in order.

"It is a classic example of corporate madness", he said. "Amnesty's council has been dazzled by Thorpe's undoubted gift for talking and it has clearly not consulted the staff."

Mr Thorpe, who starts work next month at a salary believed to be between £12,000 and £15,000, was in Luxembourg yesterday and unavailable for comment. It is his first job since he was acquitted at the Central Criminal Court in 1979 of conspiracy and incitement to murder.

The job, for which there were 41 other candidates and a shortlist of four, was offered to Mr Thorpe on Sunday. Mr Roger Brincker, chairman of Amnesty's ruling council, said that the former Liberal MP, North Devon, had a deep feeling and understanding of human rights.

"He was associated with Amnesty International when it was set up 20 years ago and so has a clear understanding of our aims," he said. "We believe that he is a man with new ideas and drive. We are in a period of expansion and we feel that Mr Thorpe is the type of man we want. He will put his ideas into practice."

Man for the job? Page 10



Sir Freddie's flying squad buzzes London

Cheerful anarchy ruled in some of the more select parts of London yesterday as Laker Airways staff briefly forgot their cares in a mock assault on the seats of power. (David Nicholson-Lord writes). Wave after wave of stewardesses and flight crew rolled in from Gatwick by coach to converge on Whitehall, Westminster,

Downing Street and the Stock Exchange. They lobbed MPs, sang songs, handed in petitions and stuck yellow "I'm a Laker-Liker" badges on anything that moved. Mainly, however, they milled. Milling began near the Cenotaph in mid-morning and ended around the Commons towards dusk. It climaxed when six staff handed in

a petition and open letter at 10 Downing Street. Miss Lisa Holden, a stewardess, described public response as amazing and overwhelming. Fifty thousand signatures had been handed in and millions more were being collected. Unfortunately the petition did not say anything. "There's no actual wording", one Laker girl

said. "We're just trying to generate enthusiasm." Mr Simon Boston's open letter to Mrs Thatcher asks her for a small private donation. But on a day when even policemen signed petitions, one poster summed it all up. Below a cardboard cut-out of the Skytrain and a large Union flag was the single word: "Help!"

Bank drops scheme to rescue Laker

By Michael Clark

The Orion Royal Bank has failed in its attempt to save Laker Airways from the clutches of the Receiver.

A statement from Mr Christopher Chataway, the bank's deputy chairman, said it had been unable to rescue the airline from the different groups of creditors, so the reconstruction of Laker Airways had proved impossible in the time available.

The bank had been given just a couple of days to raise £35m with a consortium of British and North American financiers to keep Laker flying for another year, thereby saving off creditors who are owed a total of £70m.

Part of Orion's plan would have been to inject the £35m into the company and then get the banks and other creditors to abide by the rescheduling arrangements reached before Christmas. The remaining creditors would be asked to convert some of their debts into preference shares.

Mr Chataway said his bank had received an excellent response to its approaches to various institutions and individuals and this convinced him that new equity could be underwritten, but it also became clear that it was impossible for some of the

receivers to wait even a few days for such an offer to be formalized.

The particular problem was that there were five different creditors, all with different interests.

The four operating companies for example, were "a rapidly wasting asset. If they are not sold quickly they will not be able to raise very much", Mr Chataway said. "I do not criticize the receivers for that, in the circumstances it probably was inevitable. I cannot see any way now in which the break-up of Laker will be avoided."

Mr Bill Mackay, the receiver appointed by Midland Bank International, had all along been sceptical of Orion's scheme and described it as unrealistic. The best financial brains in the banking world had failed to find a solution. He will now press ahead with his plans to live off parts of the business to various bidders.

Continued on page 2, col 4

Attack on Poland splits West at security talks

From Richard Wigg, Madrid, Feb 8

Several Western nations today expressed their opposition to endangering the Madrid, Spain, fundamental aid "perhaps fatal threat" to the missile Helsinki process.

The foreign ministers of Canada and Spain, the latter nation being taken up positions, said they were not going, substantially ignoring what lay behind Mr Haig's declaration.

Mr Mark McGugin, the Canadian's External Affairs Minister, said after talking on Sunday to Mr Pedro Perez-Llorca, the Spanish Foreign Minister, that he was opposed to a break-up of the Madrid meeting while it could serve as a forum for dialogue.

Photograph, page 6
Leading article, page 11

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Photograph, page 6
Leading article, page 11

'Times' to close unless 600 jobs go

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Correspondent

Mr Rupert Murdoch said yesterday that *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* would be closed down unless union agreements to a fresh 600 redundancies could be reached within "days rather than weeks".

In a letter sent last night to the company's 2,600 full-time employees, Mr Murdoch says that the reductions are essential to deal with a "major crisis" in which *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* are expected to lose a total of £15m for this year.

The letter, hand-delivered yesterday to senior national officials of the print unions, said that as *Times Newspapers* stood they were "bleeding to death".

The new move, which comes after a week of discussions between Mr Murdoch and his senior managers at TNT, follows the company's failure to make headway with talks on fresh cuts since Mr Murdoch's warning, last November, that new agreements on manning levels were urgently needed.

The company intends to begin immediate negotiations with union chieftains (office branches) to seek agreement on voluntary redundancies if possible. The letter says: "The alternative is no work for anyone and only the minimum pay off."

Before flying back to New York last night, Mr Murdoch left senior executives in little doubt that he wanted the bulk of negotiations to be completed within a fortnight, at most, and within 30 days if possible. The company is to give formal notice of redundancies to the Department of Employment.

Mr Murdoch has also indicated that if the talks do not make the required progress TNT would be put in the hands of the official receiver. There was uncertainty last night whether if that happened the receiver would have the titles of *Times Newspapers* Ltd at his disposal for sale.

The redundancies required will be over and above the cuts in 523 full-time jobs agreed when Mr Murdoch's company, News International, took over TNT in February, 1981. The company declined to specify full details of where the bulk of the redundancies are intended to fall, but the largest single group is likely to be the clerical members of the National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel.

Mr Murdoch's letter says that the total clerical complement across the papers, is currently 671 men and women, excluding managers and juniors, compared with a clerical total for *The Observer* and *The Guardian* together of 221.

In the starkest terms he has used since the take over last year, Mr Murdoch says that the TNT finances are so desperate that they have forced News International, which includes *The Sun* and the *News of the World* and associated companies to go into overall loss.

Text of letter, page 2

The earl, the coal man and the art premium

By Frances Gibb

Artists' auction houses in London are not alone in generating enthusiasm. Mr Simon Boston's open letter to Mrs Thatcher asks her for a small private donation. But on a day when even policemen signed petitions, one poster summed it all up. Below a cardboard cut-out of the Skytrain and a large Union flag was the single word: "Help!"

Mr Charles Lee, president of the British Art Dealers' Association, asked in his letter in *The Times* yesterday, did he earn a living from buying at either Sotheby's or Christie's? For if he did not, 75 per cent of auction buyers did, he pointed out.

Mr Lee's letter does not earn a living buying art, auction houses are not out there. He is a director of the Westmorland Coal Company in Philadelphia, together with Lord Westmorland, Master of the Queen's Horse and chairman of Sotheby's.

Both are also co-directors of

Continued on back page, col 4

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Do not cheat on benefits, Tories told

Unemployment benefit should be restored to its value at November, 1979, to prevent the Conservative Party being seen to cheat, a Bow Group pamphlet argues today. It also calls for child benefits to be raised by £1.50 a week to improve work incentives (Our Social Services Correspondent writes).

The pamphlet says that the 2 per cent shortfall in unemployment and supplementary benefits last November should be made good both on the grounds of fairness and political self-interest. The benefits, the pamphlet says, are now worth less than at any time in the past decade. "The last thing we can afford is to be accused of dishonesty".

Ear injury men win £25,000

A High Court case in which four government radio operators sued over ear injuries caused by secret radar monitoring was settled yesterday on payment of damages totalling £25,000.

Mr Alexander Runciman, aged 65, of Chirk, Wrexham, now retired, received an agreed £10,000, and Mr Norman Johnson, aged 60, of Scally, Scarborough, £5,000. Mr Robert Harry Hayward, of Wellington, Somerset, accepted £5,500.

Mrs Jean Todd Cotnam, of Shaftesbury, Dorset, who had sued on behalf of her husband, Jeffery, who died in 1980, received £3,500.

The four, who also received costs, worked for the Government communications headquarters in Britain and abroad. Their duties involved long hours of listening to a variety of signals, some disguised at very loud volumes.

'Times' lorry in fatal crash

A lorry driver was killed and two men were injured in a collision involving five lorries, including one from *The Times*, on the M6 motorway near Sandbach, Cheshire, early yesterday. The dead man was Mr Terence Alexander Easchus, of Middleton, Manchester. The two injured were drivers for *The Times*. As a result of the crash copies of the newspaper were not delivered in Greater Manchester, parts of Lancashire and southern Cumbria.

Rice-Davies divorce

Mandy Rice-Davies, aged 36, the actress who was involved in the Profumo scandal in the 1960s, was divorced from her second husband, Mr Charles Laveira, a restaurateur, in the Divorce Court in London yesterday. The decree nisi was by consent on the grounds of two years' separation.

Police spending puts pressure on fire services

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Britain's cities will have to make even bigger cuts in services if the police are exempt from savings and the Government does not revise expenditure decisions, the Association of Metropolitan Authorities has told Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary.

Greater Manchester would be one of the least affected, but police exemption would mean redundancies in other services, including firemen, so that the council would not be able to discharge all its statutory functions.

The figures have been produced to show the Government that its financial restrictions are boxing in authorities, which have already threatened cuts of up to 5,000 people in six key police forces.

The Labour-controlled association represents the Greater London Council and the metropolitan councils of Merseyside, Greater Manchester, West and South Yorkshire, Tyne and Wear and the West Midlands.

The association says the Metropolitan Police in London will get money at their expense, thus harming attempts to carry out Lord Scarman's recommendations in the wake of last summer's riots.

It has received a letter from the Home Office saying it has approached the Department of the Environment about the share of the Metropolitan Police "and the possibility of making a reduction is being looked at urgently".

Figures sent to Mr Whitelaw show that the Metropolitan Police share of resources would increase by 24 per cent in 1982.

The Home Office says the Government cannot pay for all riot damage, but "we are examining the possibility of detailed amendments within the framework of the scheme which has been proposed".

The Home Office's "first reaction" is that any extra costs because of the Police's visit "will have to lie where they fall, as in the case of policing any other public event. The expenditure will, of course, qualify for police grants".

The figures are intended to arm Mr Whitelaw for a Cabinet battle before the association seeks a meeting with the Prime Minister.

If the police are exempt from cuts and the Government's overall target is to be met, cuts in other services would increase as follows: Greater Manchester by 31.1 per cent; Merseyside 35.8 per cent; South Yorkshire 18.6 per cent; Tyne and Wear 22.2 per cent; West Midlands 26.3 per cent; West Yorkshire 31.2 per cent.

The size of the cuts would range from 8.3 per cent in South Yorkshire to 37 per cent in West Midlands.

An across-the-board cut of 8.3 per cent, excepting the police, in South Yorkshire would mean 550 redundancies, including 70 firemen.

The Government announced plans for new slip roads which would encourage more traffic on to the A225.

"The court must take into account the fact that the scheme or order is not the end of the administrative process", the judge said. "The minister can change his mind. He considered that the Department of Transport had left room for changing its mind in the Darenth Valley case. I come to the conclusion that this application must fail", he said.

He awarded costs against the villagers after finding from Mr Jeremy Sullivan, for the Department of Transport, that failure to do so might unleash a torrent of objections to other new roads from people who felt they were immune from court costs.

"In this case there was no clear authority of a court as to who was right", the judge said. "In those circumstances it was not reasonable for the objectors to come to this court and ask for a decision".

Mr Sullivan said the failure to award costs against the objectors would be most unjust. "Just about every section of the M25 has been challenged on one ground or another".

The judge said he had some sympathy with the objectors. The pivot of his judgment, foreshadowed in the hearing in January, was that the courts would be unlikely to intervene in such disputes unless ministers were clearly shown to have acted extremely unreasonably.

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Turning to jelly: Mr Alfred Morris, Labour MP for Manchester, Wythenshawe (left), preparing to sample some jellied eels in Parliament Square yesterday. The eel stall was publicizing a sponsored walk from the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation.

Bank's Laker rescue plan fails

Continued from page 1

Mr Mackay said it was possible that the two subsidiaries could be in new hands by late this evening as it was essential that their future was assured before public confidence was affected.

He will then turn his attention to Skytrain and Laker's 11 DC10's and three Airbus A300's worth around £200m. The market for second-hand aircraft remains depressed and they may have to be sold well below their current value.

Thousands of package holidays booked through Laker Travel and Arrowsworld have been switched to other tour operators. This will already have led to some erosion in the market value—around £2—of the subsidiaries for which the Receiver is considering offers. When Laker crashed on Friday the two subsidiaries had around 150,000 firm bookings (Derek Harris, Our Commercial Editor, writes).

Thomson Holidays, biggest of the package tour operators, took around £4m worth of business on Saturday, about three times normal daily business, and the equivalent of 15,000 holidays, as travel agents rushed to switch holiday bookings out of the Laker companies.

Other tour operators told a similar story: Cosmos said so many bookings came in over the weekend that staff had not had time to count them.

Thomson, which has been putting together a programme of extra holidays from Manchester and Gatwick to substitute for Laker traffic from these two airports, said that it might prove more difficult later to secure seats to match holidays at the peak summer period.

Cosmos so far sees no such problem. The company is already seeking an extra 6,000 hotel beds at popular destinations which would give a holiday capacity through the season of about 80,000.

Thomas Cook travel agencies have already switched to alternative operators for most of their customers' 12,500 Laker holidays.

Spanish destinations are the most popular for the coming summer, according to Pickfords, with Italy also increasing in popularity. Demand for Greek and American holidays is low.

A summer market at least 5 per cent down on last year's buoyant market is still being forecast.

Sir Freddie, who has not been seen in public since the crash, was announced on Friday, spent most of yesterday at a private hearing before a High Court Family Division judge. His American-born third wife Lady Laker was also present (The Press Association reports).

Sir Freddie told reporters that he had been overwhelmed by the public response to his business plight and the attempts being made to save the airline. "I just love you all", he said.

Lady Laker refused to comment as she left the Court. The hearing, before Mr Justice Eastham, is expected to continue tomorrow.

The couple married in 1975 but their marriage problems have been in the news in recent months. They have a four-year-old son, nicknamed Little Fred.

What Laker has to sell, page 17

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Thomson, which has been putting together a programme of extra holidays from Manchester and Gatwick to substitute for Laker traffic from these two airports, said that it might prove more difficult later to secure seats to match holidays at the peak summer period.

Cosmos so far sees no such problem. The company is already seeking an extra 6,000 hotel beds at popular destinations which would give a holiday capacity through the season of about 80,000.

'Deadly fire hazard' at Albert Hall

By Tony Samstag

Mr James Tye, director general of the British Safety Council, the man who caused a certain amount of hilarity by warning of a potential fire disaster in St Paul's Cathedral during the royal wedding last year, has struck again, this time at the Albert Hall, in London.

At a press conference in London yesterday it was his contention that the hall will inevitably become a crematorium for large numbers of its 6,900 capacity audience unless its management mends its ways.

The management's approach to fire safety in the hall is "theoretical, unsatisfactory and dangerous", according to Mr Tye.

An investigation by the safety council, which is registered with the Charity Commission as a "non-profit-making association", last month "revealed a very real danger of catastrophe, with locked fire doors, obstructions, inadequate fire precautions and a lack of understanding on the part of management of how fire and people threatened by fire behave".

During a boxing tournament at the hall in November Mr Tye found the main door and adjacent fire exits locked. The management admits that some exits are locked sometimes, but maintains that there are still more than enough staff to free them and other exits.

The London Fire Brigade, which says it regularly advises the hall, adds that fire exits are in any case a matter for the architect's department of the Greater London Council, which is not mentioned in the safety council's report.

"In our experience management have always put right whatever we find is wrong", Mr Mike Doherty, chief staff officer for the fire brigade, adds.

By virtue of its royal charter, the hall is exempt from the Fire Precautions Act, 1971; or, as Mr Tye puts it, the management "considers they are outside the law and that the fire authority can only give entry by invitation".

That remark would seem something of an exaggeration.

More importantly, there was little difficulty in obtaining plants of normal appearance from plantlets sprouting from infected roots. So far there is no direct evidence that the plants and plantlets contain bacteria, but the fact that they too accumulate the distinctive biochemicals of crown gall tumours and hairy roots is highly suggestive.

Source: *Nature* (vol 295, p 432), February 4, 1982.

Mr Nature-Times News Service, 1982.

A locked fire hydrant, for fire brigade use only.

Times group 'bleeding to death', Murdoch says

The following is the text of a personal message to all staff of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* from Mr Rupert Murdoch, chairman of Times Newspapers Limited.

I am writing to you—and every member of the staff—to tell you about the state of the Times Newspapers Limited today.

You will say you have heard of Times before. But if you have not, I am writing to you here that if the crisis facing us today is not resolved within days rather than weeks, our newspapers will have to be closed.

And this comes at a time when our revenues are at an all-time low.

How, you will ask, can such a situation come about?

Put at its simplest, our newspapers are exceeding revenue to a point where the company is losing at the rate of £12m a year.

Due to interruptions, both internal and external, together with delays in implementing previous agreements, the loss this year will be £12m not counting the cost of redundancies.

Of course, other factors are involved—newsprint costs, exchange rates, the general economic climate over which we have no direct control.

But far and away the most dramatic contribution to our losses comes from the fact that we are employing far more people than our competitors and we need to produce our newspapers.

On our payroll are 2,600 full-time employees, plus 2,950 single shift workers. Very few non-executives work a five-day week.

To give ourselves a future we must insist on 600 redundancies over and above those agreed one year ago. Most must go at once. Others will be phased out fairly quickly with the introduction of cold-type composing.

Your immediate questions will be: "Who is to go? How are they to be chosen?"

Those are matters which the management have asked your chapel officers to discuss as soon as possible.

On our side we are prepared to pay for these redundancies as a further expensive but vital investment in our future. We hope they will be voluntary.

But redundancies there have to be.

For the alternative is no work for anyone and only the statutory minimum pay.

As Times Newspapers Limited stands today, we are quite literally bleeding to death.

I have been asked why we do not increase advertising rates and the price of our papers.

My answer is that we have, in fact, already put our rates up considerably and the cover price of *The Sunday Times* is going up another 5p on February 21.

To go any further would not only make us uncompetitive and our situation even worse, but we would be asking the public to pay for our extravagance.

To illustrate the scale of the problem we face, we are reducing the staffing in our clerical

Science report

Harnessing disease to introduce new genes

By the Staff of "Nature"

The discovery that a plant root disease is the result of the integration of genetic material from an infectious bacterium has led to a way in which breeders could introduce new genes into plants.

The discovery, the outcome of several years of research by Dr Mary-Dell Chilton and Dr Jacques Tempe, has been completed at the Versailles-based Station de Genetique et d'Amelioration des Plantes. Both researchers have been studying a system in which bacterial genes are inserted into those of the plants they infect, causing crown gall tumours to appear on the plants. Much effort has been spent on trying to understand the molecular basis of this disease in the hope that it could be exploited by plant breeders, perhaps by using infectious bacteria to carry new genes into plants.

Previous attempts to use the crown gall system have failed because at some stage normal plants have to be grown from tumour tissue. Heretofore it has not been possible to do this reproducibly, so Dr Tempe, Dr Chilton and their colleagues turned to the disease of carrots called hairy root disease.

The disease is caused by a bacterium closely related to the agent of crown gall disease, and because the diseased roots contain the distinctive biochemicals that accumulate in crown gall tumours, it seemed likely that bacterial genes are also integrated into carrot roots.

Dr Tempe's team tested that expectation by infecting small pieces of carrot with the hairy root disease bacterium. Crown gall tumours under suitable laboratory conditions, the segments of carrot soon sprouted roots and it was possible to show that bacterial genes were incorporated into the plant genes of those roots.

More importantly, there was little difficulty in obtaining plants of normal appearance from plantlets sprouting from infected roots. So far there is no direct evidence that the plants and plantlets contain bacteria, but the fact that they too accumulate the distinctive biochemicals of crown gall tumours and hairy roots is highly suggestive.

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Overseas selling prices

Australia \$8.25; Bahrain \$8.25; Canada \$8.25; Cyprus \$8.25; Denmark \$8.25; France \$8.25; Germany \$8.25; Greece \$8.25; Hong Kong \$8.25; India \$8.25; Italy \$8.25; Japan \$8.25; Kuwait \$8.25; Lebanon \$8.25; Libya \$8.25; Malaysia \$8.25; Mexico \$8.25; Morocco \$8.25; New Zealand \$8.25; Norway \$8.25; Oman \$8.25; Pakistan \$8.25; Portugal \$8.25; Qatar \$8.25; Saudi Arabia \$8.25; Singapore \$8.25; South Africa \$8.25; Spain \$8.25; Sweden \$8.25; Switzerland \$8.25; Taiwan \$8.25; Thailand \$8.25; Turkey \$8.25; United Arab Emirates \$8.25; United Kingdom \$8.25; USA \$8.25; Venezuela \$8.25.

Public spending on building programmes is two quarters ahead of construction industry.

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Take that: Lord Bethell (centre) serving his writ on Mr Joseph Claessens, of Sabena.

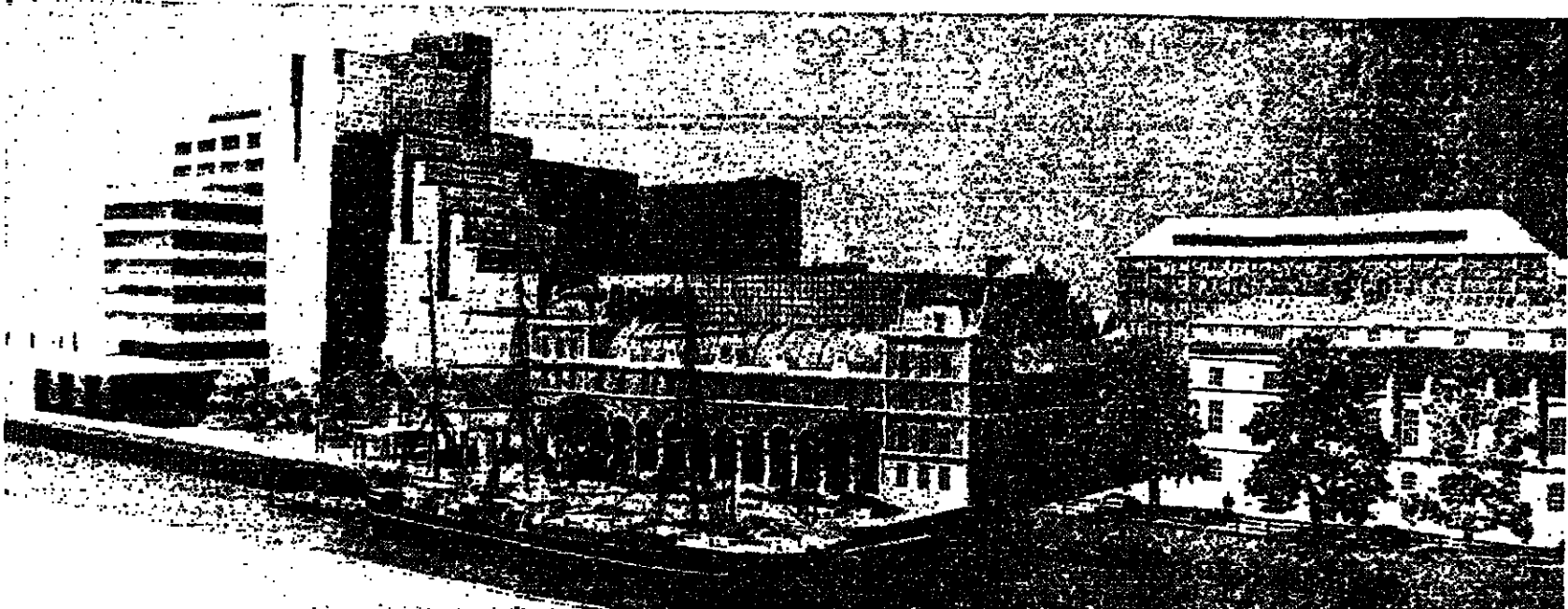
Lord Bethell sues airline over fares

By John Withrow

Lord Bethell issued a writ against Sabena, the Belgian airline, yesterday accusing them of overcharging him £50 for a return ticket to Brussels.

He walked into Sabena's Piccadilly offices to deliver the writ, summoning the airline's representatives to appear at Wandsworth County Court, in south London.

Lord Bethell, European MP for London, North-west, flies regularly to Brussels, paying £125 for an economy return ticket. He estimates that is about £50 too much and is suing Sabena for overcharging him £85 and 85 of the Treaty of Rome, which ensure free competition in the EEC.



£75m plan will preserve Billingsgate tradition

This 12-storey office block will be built next to the former Billingsgate fish market, in London, if the City Corporation accepts a planning application disclosed yesterday, writes Hugh Clayton. London & Edinburgh Investment Trust and the S and W Berisford food company said in their joint application

for a £75m development that they would preserve the listed façades of the 110-year-old market. They will also open the site before development to archaeologists since evidence of a Roman quay and a Saxon harbour has been found near by. Sales of fresh fish have fallen sharply in the past 20

years as demand has switched to fish fingers and other processed foods. The market has now moved to London's disused dockland, and the old building near London Bridge will be used for offices. It might house the trading floor of the London Commodity Exchange, and

extend a tradition of markets on the site since Saxon times.

"The core of the present-day building is in a very poor state of repair", the developers said. "The proposals allow for the River Thames and Lower Thames Street façades to be retained and refurbished".

BMA may seek petrol lead cut

By John Witheron

The British Medical Association's Board of Science yesterday described lead taken into the human body as a serious public health hazard and said it may press for further cuts in the amount of lead in the environment.

The BMA's statement was released after a confidential letter was published in *The Times* yesterday from Sir Henry Yellowless, Chief Medical Officer at the Department of Health and Social Security, who gave a warning that lead in petrol was permanently reducing the IQ of many children.

A spokesman for the BMA said: "On the basis of past scientific evidence the Board of Science believes that lead taken into the human body is a serious public health hazard. The board believes that all sources of lead pollution should be eliminated wherever possible."

The evidence will be put before the BMA council on March 3, when it is likely that further action will be taken. That could mean gathering more medical evidence or making representations.

Professor Thomas Oppe, a paediatrician at St Mary's Hospital Medical School and one of the doctors on the board examining the evidence on lead poisoning, added: "The Board of Science is convinced that the level of exposure to lead can be a cause of brain damage. Every effort should be made to reduce lead levels in the environment."

However, medical evidence on lead has been questioned. Mr Giles Shaw, Under-Secretary of State at the Department of the Environment, said that until more convincing evidence was available the present steps to reduce lead in petrol appeared adequate.

Sir Henry's letter to Whitehall chiefs, giving warning that "some hundreds of thousands of children" were at risk, was sent on March 6 last year. On May 11 the Government announced that lead in petrol would be reduced gradually from 0.40 to 0.15 grams a litre by 1985.

The lead content in petrol is still 0.40g a litre. Australia, the United States, the Soviet Union and Japan have all eradicated lead from petrol. Mr Shaw said that would not be possible in Britain by 1985.

The medical evidence was also questioned by Mr Anthony Fraser, director of the Society of Motor Manufacturers, who said on BBC Radio: "We believe the medical evidence is unanimous. It is divided."

"Motor manufacturers could produce cars that run on lead-free petrol but they are less efficient, likely to consume more fuel and they are generally not as good performers."

Mr Douglas Harvey, director general of the Petroleum Industry Association, said only the government could decide to remove lead from petrol.

□ The Government is to be

asked to publish all the evidence on which it based its decision last year to reduce but not eliminate lead in petrol. (Our Political Reporter writes). The request will be made today by Mr Dennis Howell, Opposition spokesman on environmental pollution, when he meets Mr Shaw.

The Government's decision last year gradually to reduce lead in petrol was attacked by the Opposition and other critics who said that the Government should have eliminated lead.

At their meeting today, Mr Howell will tell Mr Shaw that Sir Henry's letter, highly relevant in view of his position as the Government's leading medical advisor, should have been made available to Parliament with all the other evidence at the time the decision was announced.

Government departments repeated yesterday the Sir Henry's views were known at the time of the decision and that his letter was one of the many points considered.

The Government's view was set out by Mr Kenneth Clarke, Under-Secretary of State for Transport last Friday, and has not been changed, it was said yesterday, by the publication of Sir Henry's letter.

Mr Clarke said last week that the Government could not afford to take measures over lead levels "if the balance of evidence does tip in that direction", but he said that at present the

scientific evidence remained equivocal.

He commented: "I am not convinced that it is for the time being realistic to go beyond the impressive action already taken by the Government."

□ The campaign to remove lead from petrol has moved into top gear after the disclosure of Sir Henry's letter. (Our Science Editor writes).

His advice was rejected for commercial reasons. Liquid lead may be added to petrol under the regulations.

The issue looks as if it should be easy to resolve. Lead has no place in the human body. It is harmful if absorbed, unlike other elements which are poisonous in large amounts but are essential in trace quantities.

Yet the controversy is similar to that surrounding the early stage of the evidence showing the link between lung cancer and smoking. Then commercial interests, including the Treasury, tried to place the onus on medical research workers to prove how cigarette smoke caused lung cancer.

The growing number of scientists, doctors, environmentalists and politicians campaigning against lead should, in their view, have an advantage. There is no controversy over the fact that lead is a neurotoxin, a poison which damages the brain.

Leading article, page 11

Dentists protest at charge rise

By Annabel Ferriman

The increase by almost half in dental charges announced by the Government last December would reverse a 20-year trend towards more widespread dental care, representatives of Britain's 14,000 dentists told the Government yesterday.

A delegation from the British Dental Association met Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, to protest about the increases, which come into effect on April 1.

They told Mr Fowler that the health service was being "destroyed by stealth" because the charges were far higher than the rise in the cost of the service. They would mean fewer people going to the dentist.

Mr Ronald Allen, secretary of the association, said dental patients were being asked to shoulder 30 per cent of the cost of the dental service, whereas traditionally charges had paid for between 19 and 23 per cent. Charges paid for only about 3 per cent of the health service.

Mr Fowler had welcomed the report of the government-appointed Dental Strategy Review Body last September, which said that a policy of prevention required low charges, yet three months later he had announced the increases.

Under the proposed increases, the maximum charge for routine treatment would rise from £9 to £13

Research council cuts: 2 A helping hand for knowledge

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Truly revolutionary discoveries in science occur only two or three times in a generation. One such advance is the method of genetic engineering being exploited for the production of synthetic insulin, the manufacture of interferon and the creation of a family of substances — known as monoclonal antibodies — with exciting biological properties for medical purposes.

Even so, the foundation for those discoveries lies in the genius of Francis Crick and James Watson, 25 years ago, in deciphering how the genetic code is passed through generations via the double helix of DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) found in the nucleus of each living cell.

That original investigation at the Medical Research Council molecular biology laboratory, Cambridge, is a classic example of fundamental academic research. Its sole purpose was the advancement of knowledge. No one queried its practical use, and until 10 years ago, there were few reasons to believe that such knowledge would have commercial implications.

But the scope of academics to pursue such intellectual curiosity is diminishing as the Government's austerity measures bite into the resources for basic research. Sir James Gowans, secretary of the Medical Research Council (MRC) says areas of important research will be delayed because of cuts the Government is imposing on academic spending through

the University Grants Committee.

The research council is therefore having to dip into its pocket to provide some of the routine services to enable scientists to have proper conditions in which to work. The provision of "well-found laboratories" is not the responsibility of the research councils and so the MRC has sent a letter to universities stating explicitly the minimum conditions a university must provide if scientists receive research grants.

The MRC budget for the coming financial year is £107.4m, which is divided between direct awards to university teams of over £25m; the running of special medical research units located in teaching hospitals and universities costing £35m; operation of the council's own National Institute for Medical Research, at Mill Hill, £8m; the Clinical Research Centre, at Northwick Park Hospital in North London, £9m; and joint funding with the Cancer Research Campaign of the Institute of Cancer Research, in London.

The MRC is offering to help research workers in the middle of important projects who lose their jobs in a department which is closing because of cuts. While not paying their salaries, they will be eligible for small personal grants to help them finish their work. In cases of exceptionally promising scientists, the MRC is willing to expand its senior fellowship scheme to provide support for up to 10 years for

young researchers unable to find tenured posts.

However, these acts of expediency have a penalty. The MRC is almost bereft of contingency money to underwrite speculative ideas.

Sir James Gowans is most anxious about the lack of resources to provide a period of freedom for researchers with ideas, germinating from a hunch into a sensible theory worth testing experimentally, but before it is reasonable to make a formal research grant proposal.

Sir James believes this period of freedom in the research process is most vulnerable to the way the academic squeeze has been implemented. He also argues that it needs the most careful nurturing, because it provides the basis on which to build for the future.

Nevertheless, Sir James has wrung a considerable concession from the Government. He has retrieved the £15m which had been transferred from the MRC budget to the Department of Health, under an arrangement known as the customer-contractor principle, introduced in 1974 on the recommendation of Lord Rothschild.

The amounts transferred from the budgets of different councils to ministries varied. The purpose was for those government departments to use the money to commission research of their choosing, perhaps through the councils or other agencies. The issue at stake over the customer-contractor principle is one of academic freedom. Tomorrow: Agricultural research

Test-tube babies 'could bring Oedipus tragedy'

By George Clark

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, is to be asked tomorrow if the Government will set up an advisory committee to advise on the social, medical, legal and ethical issues raised by the latest experiments for producing test-tube babies.

Mr Leo Abse, Labour MP for Pontypool, who has tabled the question for a written answer, said yesterday that he is concerned that the present possibilities for conducting experiments of embryo babies for the benefit of eradicating inherited genetic illnesses will lead on to the quest for a perfect embryo, "which has all sorts of Hitlerian overtones".

He refers in his question to the development of "in-vitro pregnancies" and asks for the appointment of an inter-departmental, interdisciplinary advisory committee, not less than half of which would be women.

The Royal College of Gynaecologists and the British Medical Association have

both referred the issue to their ethical committees, Mr Abse said, because they are beginning to see the possibility of people being able to freeze and keep a bank of embryos for sale to couples who are unable to have children by any other means.

He said that it is now possible for an ovum to be taken from a woman and then fertilised by the male sperm, the resultant embryo being placed in the womb to be born in the normal way. That he has no objection to. "But with the blessings of this development come grave dangers."

Now it becomes possible for an embryo bank, unlicensed and uncontrolled, to sell babies to whomsoever they wish.

"The tragedy of Oedipus — of a man marrying his mother — looms into view as the ability to freeze embryos develops and the anonymity of the donors of ova is maintained", Mr Abse said.

Call for increase in forests

By John Young

Agriculture Correspondent. The forested area of Britain could be increased by more than half the present two million hectares, with considerable benefits to the economy, to agriculture and to recreation.

That is the conclusion of a report published yesterday by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, which also suggests, more controversially, that large areas of "unproductive" common land could and should be used for forestry and agriculture.

The institution strongly supports a recommendation by the Centre for Agricultural Science that "agriculture and forestry be brought more closely together in colleges and universities to encourage a multi-disciplinary approach to land use."

Forestry and Land Use. (Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, 12 Great George Street, Parliament Square, London, SW1P 3AD).

Haughey factor may thwart Fianna Fail

From Richard Ford, Portlaoine, co Laois

Poor Charles Haughey. He has kissed young girls, presented flowers to an old lady, held a baby and even climbed up a ladder to get votes.

But even his considerable campaigning skill has failed to raise morale within his divided Fianna Fail party or persuade a doubting electorate that the man they rejected seven months ago can be entrusted once again with running the Irish Republic.

The opinion polls have made devastating reading for a man who inherited a party used to names with the charisma of de Valera, Lemass and Lynch. His personal credibility rating has plummeted to humiliating levels, even below that of Mr Michael O'Leary, leader of Ireland's small Labour Party.

The Haughey factor has

been a dominant part of the election campaign so far, not just with the opposition but also among his own parliamentary party and party faithful in the constituencies.

It is not only his record in government, when as Prime Minister he is accused of failing to take the tough action on the economy that he knew was needed, but also the apparent manner in which his popular predecessor, Mr Jack Lynch, was ousted to make way for Mr Haughey which rankles.

Yet those same polls put his party neck and neck with the coalition and it is Fianna Fail's considerable machine that could bring salvation to it.

Fianna Fail members are heartened by evidence that a majority of the electorate agrees with Mr Haughey that unemployment and stability of government are the most

important issues and does not approve of the coalition's plans to put VAT on clothing and footwear and withdraw some food subsidies.

It is in those areas that the opposition will attempt to widen the attack during the next eight days, making considerable efforts to woo Labour's working-class vote.

Despite Dr Garret Fitzgerald's personal popularity, his Fine Gael party lags behind in the opinion polls and needs Labour to ensure that the coalition will continue in government. And it is Labour that is looking vulnerable, divided on the issue of whether to continue in the coalition, short of funds and poorly organized.

The party's vote has dropped from 17 per cent in 1969 to 9.9 per cent last year, and with such personalities as Brendan Corish and James

Tully retiring, they are in danger of losing seats in Wexford and Co Meath.

Fine Gael are fighting some tough margins in Dublin constituencies and the opposition expects to gain two seats, in Louth and Cavan-Monaghan, won last year by an H-block candidate. Privately, Fine Gael election workers are worried that although they may hold their 65 seats, any further collapse of the Labour vote would end Dr Fitzgerald's chance of forming the next government.

Ironically, the result could mean that the most popular leader in the country would have to watch a government being formed by a man who, according to the opinion polls, is the most unpopular political leader fighting the election and possibly in the republic's history.

Prior idea denounced

From a Staff Reporter, Belfast

Proposals by Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, to offer a security role to the Ulster assembly he hopes to establish at Stormont were denounced by the Official Unionist Party yesterday as "highly dangerous".

Mr Prior apparently believes that a security role is important if local politicians are to feel a proper identity with a new devolved body.

Mr James Molyneux, the Unionist leader, said that to be credible, an advisory security committee would have to have access to classified information, but some elected representatives to an assembly would have "very strong links and sympathies with the terrorists".

The Provisional IRA planted bombs across the province yesterday as part of a coordinated campaign against commercial targets.

At Strabane, co Tyrone, a family was held hostage while four men used their car to plant bombs in a golf club.

In co Londonderry the White Horse Inn was badly damaged by a car bomb and at Warrenpoint, co Down, the Crown Hotel was bombed.

EEC jobs blackspot

From Tim Jones, Belfast

Scratch Strabane and the prejudices come bubbling to the surface. The co Tyrone town is perched on the westernmost edge of the United Kingdom, where the pound meets the Irish punt, and it has the unenviable distinction of recording the highest unemployment rate of any community within the EEC.

Almost one in two men (48.1 per cent) are without work and 20 per cent of women who offer themselves for employment are unable to find jobs. The total number of unemployed in the town of 12,000 is 3,444 and the figure is rising.

In the past year an important construction company collapsed, and it combined with other setbacks to signal the end of more than 1,000 jobs.

Public spending cuts wiped out building programmes and the two quarries serving the construction industry shut. As Mr Coleman Turley, manager of the Employment Office (Job Centre) put it: "The image flashed through my mind that even the hills had stopped working."

The border, emphasized by police carrying sub-machine guns, runs through one edge of the town but it has always been ignored by the people of



Murder victim: Mrs Nellie Cardwell, aged 78, who was found dead in Belfast yesterday. She was known as "Orange Lil" for her role in "loyalist" marches.

north Donegal, who look on Strabane as a natural shopping centre.

Unfortunately the Irish Government's sterling standard has affected the town. The pound is now worth only 1.27 Irish punts.

Mr Danny McLaughlin, who owns a men's wear shop, said all the traders offered discounts to shoppers from the republic. "Like everyone else here, we have learned to live on less."

Although the town is predominantly Roman Catholic, that did not prevent Provisional IRA bombers

from destroying shops and businesses in the middle 1970s as they sought out "economic targets". In 1980 30 local people were looking forward to starting work in a new hotel but it was blown up six days before the opening.

Mr McLaughlin is bitter about the past. He maintains that because Strabane is mainly Catholic it was neglected for decades.

"In the east, concerns like Harland and Wolff and De Lorean get millions of pounds from Westminster, but we receive virtually nothing."

Union bullies and bigots will be made to pay heavy price

TRADE UNION LAW

The Employment Bill tried to provide specific remedies for real abuses, effective protection where it had been shown to be necessary, and to redress imbalances of bargaining power to which Labour legislation had contributed so significantly, Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, said.

Moving the second reading of the Bill he said under the last administration an unprecedented volume of employment legislation reached the statute book. Labour also re-enacted most of the earlier statute law going back to 1871. The impossibility of excluding the operation of the law from industrial relations had been shown.

Laws which gave trade unions rights took away common historic rights of the people. They had seen the folly of divorcing rights from obligation, and power from responsibility. Unlimited immunity for industrial action led not to peace and stability but to conflict and stalemate as they saw in the winter 1978-79.

That experience demonstrated the injustice that was bound to result if the rights of the individual were subordinated to those of the group. The closed shop legislation of 1974-76 led directly to arraignment before the European Court of Human Rights.

The Government had not sought to transform the industrial law. It had not acted hastily as the Bill was the product of 12 months' consultation. It showed that the proposals were widely supported in industry. Opinion polls had repeatedly shown that they had the approval of the majority of the electorate and trade union members.

For many of us (he said), the cause of liberty requires more commitment than to hold a flag and sing the Red Flag once again. (Labour interruptions)

For those concerned with freedom, the closed shop and those union conceptions was a matter of deep concern and it was something which was covered directly or indirectly by half the clauses in the Bill. That was why he had toyed with the idea of calling it the Workers' Rights Bill, but it went beyond the rights of workers to the rights of the whole community.

Mr Frank Dobson (Camden, Holborn and St Pancras, South, Lab) said Mr Tebbit's speech sounded like one made by General Jaruzelski.

Mr Tebbit: I think the Labour Party has more connections with east Europe than mine.

Since the Employment Act 1980, the judgment had been received from the European Court of Human Rights in the British Rail case. The court had found that the closed shop legislation which was supported by the Labour Party, and the SDP MPs who were then in the Labour Party was in clear breach of the European Convention on Human Rights.

He would like to know if Mr Eric Varley, the Opposition spokesman, supported that judgment; MPs might also like to hear from Mrs Shirley Williams of the SDP.

Mr Cyril Smith (Rochdale, Lab) would like to say since the breach of the European Convention of human rights, why this Bill continues to leave the closed shop as a legal institution within the operation of the law from industrial relations had been shown.

Mr Tebbit: He makes a fair point. I regard the closed shop as a most unhappy arrangement. I am also a practical man and believe in reform step by step, as public opinion supports it.

Since we have the institution of the closed shop it seems to me that the best thing we can do at present is to provide protection and redress for those who are damaged against it.

The official view of both the Labour Party and trade union

hierarchy was to allow four part-time dinner ladies to give school children their lunches in Walsall. It was tragic that Parliament should be asked to devote so much time to a Bill which if enacted could only make the problems devastatingly worse.

They could make the Government seriously if it was concerned about workers' rights, or if it had a strategy to reduce the role of unions.

It was ridiculous to claim that the main purpose of the Bill was to improve and protect individual employees. The Government's motives did not spring from any desire to enhance job protection, but to weaken union membership agreements and weaken the unions.

There were sincere people who had deeply-held, and genuine, convictions about religious objections to belonging to a trade union, and they had rights too. But as the Department of Employment had found out about a year ago in a specially commissioned piece of research, the overwhelming majority of cases where union agreements existed, provision had been made for individuals to keep their jobs.

Everyone resented the freedom to be employed full time but not get a penny into the union.

The most dangerous concept in the Bill was the clause which would give trade union disputes and repeal of section 14 of the Trade Unions and Labour Relations Act making it possible to sue trade union funds for breach of union agreements, putting trade union funds at risk, and threatening with imprisonment for up to two years any one case if membership of the union was over 100,000.

This not only took the clock back to 1901. This was a misapprehension of the function of democratic structure of free trade unions.

It was a misplaced idea, underestimating the damage it would do to sound industrial relations. The threat of fines would not deter most trade unionists in a highly charged work environment when they felt they had a genuine grievance. It was a misuse of public resources of the State.

The concept of making the trade union membership responsible for every single person in it was staggeringly naive. The price for properly controlling the person who put in the Green Paper the suggestion that this would make unions reform their structure and make them more "authoritarian" organisations.

The Government could not pretend that it was not aware of the fact that the Bill would not be generally leading armies. The Prime Minister herself could not even get 22 members of her Cabinet to speak in support of the Bill.

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Tebbit: Remedies for abuses.

It would not find a single job for the three million unemployed. Even this Government would not be able to do the best it could to prevent it reaching the status quo if it did reach the status quo the Opposition would remove it at the first opportunity.

SDP wants internal union ballots

Mr William Rodgers (Teesside, Stockton, SDP) said if the Conservative Party could have the power and abuse of the law, this sort of argument across the Chamber and MPs would probably agree on legislation which would give a strike period ahead.

This was an intolerable Government objectionable in principle and disastrous in its record. He wanted the Government to do much more to promote unemployment was shameful.

This having been said, it was not the case that MPs should fail to support the Bill. The idea that this Bill would destroy the trade unions was farcical, and he and other SDP MPs had placed upon the order paper, by way of instructions, proposals which would be put to the way in which the Bill might be extended during its committee stage.

It was wrong that there was anything in the Bill to make for fuller participation of workers in the decisions of their workplace. There was also need to provide for the union to be able to speak and act in its own name.

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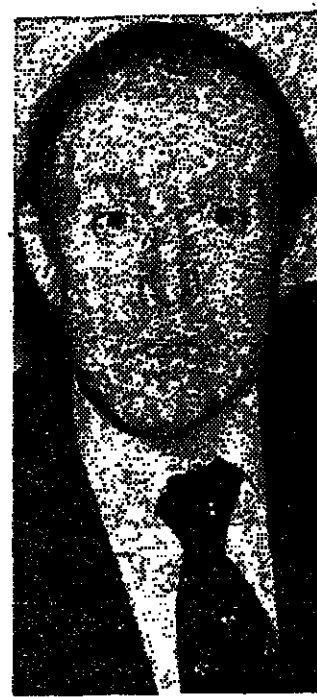
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Varley: Back to 1901

Unlike the Government, the SDP wanted an open and constructive dialogue with the TUC. They would be happy to receive representations, if need be a deputation, from the General Council, and discuss the detailed provisions of this Bill. If the Bill was to be amended at later stages it was reasonable that the House should have the best advice which might be available, whatever conclusions it might reach.

Representative trade unions had most important part to play in the national life, but the trade unions had made themselves immensely unpopular. They could not be above criticism and above the law. There was nothing anti-trade union in saying that.

Bill fits the mood of British people

Mr Timothy Renton (Mid Sussex, C), president of the Conservative trade unionist said, the bill fitted in with the mood of the British people and most trade unionists, though he did have some reservations about it, including some of its omissions.

He wanted the Government to do much more to promote unemployment was shameful.

This having been said, it was not the case that MPs should fail to support the Bill. The idea that this Bill would destroy the trade unions was farcical, and he and other SDP MPs had placed upon the order paper, by way of instructions, proposals which would be put to the way in which the Bill might be extended during its committee stage.

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Bill would help to rectify that situation. Mr Charles Morris (Manchester, Openshaw, Lab) said a report of The Times last week that 400 disputes had arisen from the application of the closed shop. Union agreements covered 5,200,000 workers so those 400 cases represented 0.008 per cent of those affected.

There was no justification for the proposals in the Bill on closed shop agreements.

Mr John Browne (Winchester, C) said the Bill would be a modern Magna Carta bestowing protection on the working man and woman. Mr Tebbit would be seen as the champion of workers' freedom.

He had reservations about some of the proposals. He was amazed and sad to find that the Conservative Party accepted the legitimacy of the closed shop at all. There were still many outstanding issues for trade unionists to deal with.

He urged the Secretary of State to introduce new clauses to tie the acceptance of these clauses to the introduction of a measure to ensure that the unions agreed to procedures and accepted formal agreements. He was amazed to find in the Bill a measure to introduce a voluntary shop floor secret ballot.

Mr Stanley Crowther (Rotherham, Lab) said the Bill would not only be a charter for freeloaders, but also a huge financial inducement to troublemakers.

He did not understand why there was so much righteous indignation about the Bill. It was presented to the public. They are, of course, at times criticised and certainly commented upon. In view of the depth of research and the problems facing this and other countries, this is entirely appropriate.

All the facts are put out and referred to by ministers and the difficulties are also discussed by ministers. You have to have both. As a Minister of the Crown, there is a healthy discussion about how we can best handle the difficulties we are facing.

Mr William Hamilton (Central Fife, Lab) said Mr Pym with the coordination between himself and the Prime Minister in these matters. Will he give an indication of the degree of consultation on human rights? Mr Tebbit deserved considerable congratulation for having gone a stage beyond the closed shop.

But I want to make this plea to him (he said). Please do not let this Bill be the last word on employment law for some years.

There were still many MPs apprehensive about the gap which still existed between the new provisions in the Bill and the existing law on employment. That apprehension would be reduced immediately if Mr Tebbit said he was determined to keep employment law under continual review.

Westminster's stonework

The next stage in the work of cleaning the stonework of the Palace of Westminster, in the 1952-53 programme, would be related to the west elevation of the palace, Mr Francis Pym, Lord President of the Council, said.

He said the cleaning would be a long programme and he would not like to say at what point when it would be completed.

Mr Christopher Murphy (Weymouth and Portland, C) It is important to ensure that all major ministers' speeches are coordinated in content.

Mr Pym: Yes, but wouldn't it be boring if they were all the same? (Laughter and cheers).

Mr John Grieve (Glasgow and Strathclyde, Lab) famous speech a week ago has been widely acclaimed throughout the country as a statement of Government policy and a statement of what the future holds for us. Are his colleagues going to take up this theme and expand on what this will mean in the course of the next two years?

Mr Pym: This is not a new theme I was admiring. I have made speeches giving what I believe is correct assessment on a number of issues. That particular speech received more comment than I deserved but I do not see why I should worry about that.

Mr John Silkin, for the Opposition (Lewisham, Deptford, Lab) Will he give as much publicity as possible that, contrary to the fact that the recession ended 12 months ago, in the past 12 months the purchasing power of the average citizen has dropped by 3.6 per cent?

Mr Pym: What is important is that there should be an accurate and realistic assessment of our situation, which must take into account all the matters that are taking place, and there are a great many, as well as concerns about the problems we are facing and how we are tackling them.

It must be a balanced assessment of the situation and my colleagues in the Government are seeking to do so.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Social Services; Prime Minister; Transport Bill, second reading; Lords (2.30): Transport (Finance) Bill, second reading; and other business. Debate on personal savings and housing markets.

Minister pessimistic about Laker

Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos (Lab) would not settle up an inquiry because there are many lessons to be learnt, to find out precisely what went wrong and why and what part the Government should play.

Lord Trefgarne: The policy of the Government on the British independent air transport industry is that they should stand on their own feet and not be subsidised by the Government or otherwise as their management should determine.

It is unhappy the case that as a result of various factors, some outside Sir Freddie's control, had had this effect. It is too early to say that Laker Airways is finally failed. I hope it is not, but this Government's policy is not to stand behind Laker or any other commercial company. A re-evaluation is not appropriate.

Lord Molloy (Lab): Public support should be given

Lord Trefgarne: Once Sir Freddie gets Government support he ceases to be an independent airline and that is the view Sir Freddie takes.

AVIATION

Despite strenuous efforts by banks in recent months to marshal additional financial support for Laker Airways, Lord Trefgarne (C), Under Secretary Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, told the Lords he was not optimistic of any success.

It was hoped that the tour operations would survive and result in continuity of employment of some Laker staff, he said but it was too early to say what arrangements might be possible to preserve employment for the remainder under new ownership.

Lord Balfour of Incheyre (C) who had asked for details of the latest position at Laker Airways and the prospects for aircrew and ground personnel, said: I hope we shall not see the high level of fares which had been imposed on the public by costly cartels, monopolies and international traffic pools.

Lord Trefgarne: Things will certainly never be the same again in international air transport. Laker gave birth to a new era in transport and he will always be remembered for that if nothing else.

Lady Borton of Coventry (SDP): Laker posed a challenge to the

cartels and that is why there has been such an incredible response to this from the public, from the pilots and from all employees of Laker.

Could he convey to the Government that this strong force of public opinion has surfaced because Laker offered the public something they had never had before?

Lord Trefgarne: The Government has been at variance with several overseas governments with regard to fare levels that attach to air services around the world, but we are obliged to operate

School religion should be kept, MPs say

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

Retention of the statutory obligation to provide religious education to all pupils, and the continued existence of voluntary denominational schools are recommended by the Commons Select Committee on Education, Science and the Arts in a report due to be published next week.

The all-party select committee, chaired by Mr Christopher Price, Labour MP for Lewisham, West, considered carefully whether to recommend the repeal of the relevant section of the Education Act, 1944, making religious education the compulsory part of the school curriculum, particularly in view of the widespread flouting of the law and the increasingly secular and multi-cultural nature of today's society.

The report points out that at present only over half of all secondary schools provide religious education for all their fourth-year pupils, and nearly a fifth make no provision at all.

However, the evidence to the committee suggested that there was a general view that religious education had the support of parents, and that support was of a level well beyond that suggested by figures for church going, and even beyond the level of religious belief. Several witnesses had detected a revival of interest in religion among the young.

In addition, Schools Inspectorate had made clear that the compulsory status of religious education had not impeded change and development in the subject.

The Archbishop of Canterbury had suggested that if there were to be any modifications in the law concerning the compulsory curriculum offerings, it should be in the

Unions ask public to back 12% NHS claim

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Union leaders of an estimated one million National Health Service employees yesterday began a campaign to mobilize public opinion against the Government's 4 per cent limit on pay increases.

The TUC Health Services Committee has agreed a "core" claim common to all 17 groups of manual and white collar staff for a 12 per cent increase and a cut in working hours from April 1. Government resistance is expected to be stiff.

Mr Alan Fisher, general secretary of the National Union of Public Employees (Nupe), said: "The public need us when they are sick. Now we are asking them to support us in getting rid of sick wages."

Pay offers are due over the next few weeks, to a wide range of NHS staff, from £59-a-week hospital porters to highly paid area administrators, and the health unions are determined to exact a higher price than the settlements below inflation of the last two years.

More than 500,000 nurses were due to receive a pay offer today, but negotiations have been put back for a fortnight because of the rail dispute.

This is the first time all unions in the health service have agreed on a joint claim, and it was announced as "beginning the fight to turn the tide of history", by Mr Albert Spanswick, general secretary of the Confederation of Health Service Employees (Cohse) and chairman of the TUC Health Committee.

Mr Spanswick said yesterday: "By asking the public to support our claim we are also asking them to support their health service. If we do not get justice now, then it is the public that will suffer in the long run."



One Welsh artist salutes another

Mr Jonah Jones, aged 60, the Welsh artist, sculptor and writer, finished the panel commemorating Dylan Thomas that is to be laid in the floor of Poet's Corner at Westminster Abbey on March 1, St David's Day, more than 28 years after Thomas's death. The lines

come from the end of "Fern Hill". Thomas's lyrical evocation of his childhood, a fitting epitaph to the talent that finally drowned in alcoholic poisoning at age of 39 (Nicholas Timmins writes).

Mr Jones, the Gregynog Art Fellow at the University of Wales,

says the 3 cwt slab is of Penrhyn green slate, an extremely hard stone whose colour suits the imagery of the lines and the poet. It is the same stone from which the memorial to Lloyd George in the Abbey, also the work of Mr Jones, is made.

Support claim for succession Bill

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mr Michael English, Labour MP for Nottingham, West, predicted yesterday that a majority of MPs would support his attempt to end discrimination against women in the law of succession to the throne.

The English Succession to the Crown Bill, published yesterday, would change the law so that elder sisters would not be outranked in the line of succession by their younger brothers.

The Bill, which has backing from Labour, Conservative, Liberal and Social Democrat MPs, would mean that the first child of the Prince and Princess of Wales would be an heir apparent, irrespective of its sex.

Mr English admitted that if the child, due in June, was a boy the whole issue was deferred for a generation, but if the child is a girl it became more urgent. Under present law she would become heir, remain heir if she had a younger sister but cease to be heir if she had a younger brother.

Mr English has written to Mrs Margaret Thatcher and the prime ministers of the 16 other Commonwealth countries of which the Queen is monarch, asking whether they disagree with his proposal, or would wish to legislate in similar terms, or would consent to his Bill extending to their countries.

Without Government support the chances of the Bill coming before the Commons for debate in this session are not bright. It is down for second reading on February 26, but is preceded on the Commons order paper that day by a Bill to abolish the rating system, which is expected to take up the entire day's sitting. Thereafter Mr English's Bill would fall in precedence.

Luggage tickets 'reissued'

British Rail lost thousands of pounds as employees at Victoria station's left luggage office systematically reissued used tickets, Inner London Crown Court was told yesterday.

Frederick Shorey, aged 39, of Eswyn Road, Tooting, and Dharma Vythelingham, aged 40, of Steerforth Street, Earlsfield, south London, both denied conspiring to steal from the British Railways Board between January, 1978, and November, 1980.

A third man, Sydney Canning, aged 55, of Crompton Road, Penze, changed his plea to guilty and was remanded until the end of the trial.

Mr Peter Cooper, for the

prosecution, told the jury that the three men, with others, pooled their profits in a plastic cup and shared them out each evening.

In 1980 large numbers of police officers deposited suitcases, taking note of the ticket serial numbers before handing them in. Members of the public who had left baggage at the office were stopped and their tickets checked.

The police estimated that between 40 and 50 per cent of all tickets were dishonestly reissued.

Mr Cooper said dishonest earnings could be as high as £6 an hour.

Race hatred claim

By Lucy Hodges

Mr Russell Proffitt, the black councillor in Lewisham, has sent a copy of the latest issue of *National Front News* to Scotland Yard inviting them to prosecute for incitement to racial hatred.

In a letter to the police Mr Proffitt says that he found the journal, which was put through his letterbox, "deeply offensive". On page one there was a handwritten message: "Don't blame the white's for New Cross fire, thick lips".

The journal contained articles about positive discrimination (described as

"anti-white, anti-British inverted racism and corruption") and about the Home Office report on racial attacks "instigated by black community groups and by a front organization of the Board of Deputies of British Jews".

It is difficult to secure the Attorney General's consent to prosecute for incitement to racial hatred and Section 5A of the Public Order Act is now under review by the Government. A recent pamphlet from the Runnymede Trust said the law was a failure and should be changed to make prosecution easier.

Woman tells of fight for 'sanity'

A woman who fought for 22 years to clear her name of the stigma of being certified insane is to launch a campaign to help others wrongfully committed to mental institutions.

Mrs Jean Dhargalkar, aged 68, claims that her cries for help while she was in a mental hospital were obstructed while the authorities planned to certify her.

She accused members of the medical and legal professions of closing ranks to cover up her case. She said lawyers accepted legal aid for court actions that were bound to fail because they were too late.

Mrs Dhargalkar's story began in 1959, when she felt ill while studying at Hull University. A doctor told her she had an infection.

Two days later she called an ambulance and was taken to hospital, but had to wait nine hours before a gangrenous appendix which had ruptured was diagnosed. She underwent surgery, but was given only a 5 per cent chance of survival.

The after-effects of the operation and a "cocktail" of drugs made her delirious, and within three days she was taken to a mental hospital. She said no one would listen to her story, she was not given proper medical attention, and after five days she was certified insane.

She was detained against her will for a month until her husband flew home from India to obtain her release.

Mrs Dhargalkar said: "When my husband secured my release I was decertified. That means that I was sane, but the certificate still existed."

The only way to have the certificate quashed was through a successful High Court action. But it took 22 years and six firms of solicitors for her to have the certificate declared wrongful.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Dilemma in the middle of nowhere

The forgotten people of Walpole, Somerset, yesterday started a campaign to seek a rates reduction from Sedgemoor District Council because their hamlet of five houses no longer officially exists.

They say they have lost their identity because they have a Dunball postal address and a Puriton telephone number, are in the parish of Pawlett, are not listed in the official census, and are no longer on the map.

They had to rely on voluntary help during recent flooding because council workmen could not find the hamlet, and firemen spent half an hour searching for it in an emergency.

Mr Donald Fuller, the postmaster at Puriton, summed it up: "Walpole? Never heard of it. It must have been absorbed."

£165,679 damages

An electrician who lost his sight and senses of smell and taste in a road accident was awarded £165,679 damages and interest against the Post Office in the High Court in London yesterday.

Mr Justice Comyn said it was impossible to over-emphasize the bravery of Mr Martin Mustart, aged 30, of Hammer Lane, Haslemere, Surrey, who had set up in business as an electrical supplier after the accident.

Walkers renew rescue box

The Keswick-Barrow walk committee has sent a cheque for £250 to replace the mountain rescue box and stretcher on Striding Edge, Helvellyn, in the Lake District.

The equipment box and stretcher, put there eight years ago for public use, were recently brought down by the Patterdale mountain rescue team, who have responsibility for them. They were so heavily vandalized that they had become unsafe for use.

Four die in crash

Four people died when a Ford Cortina and a Cortina Estate were in collision near Longbridge, Edinburgh, on Sunday night. The dead were: Mr Henry McCulloch aged 23, a student, and Miss Nora Cairns, aged 21, a civil servant, both of Fauldhouse, West Lothian, and a coal merchant Mr Thomas Bryce, aged 40, and his wife, aged 48, of Bo'ness, near Edinburgh.

Theft from lifeboat

Thieves have stolen the compass, valued at £100, from the replacement Penlee lifeboat, the Guy and Clare Hunter, only a few hours after it arrived on station at Newlyn, Cornwall.

PRISON FOR INDECENCY WITH BOYS

A riding school manager was sentenced yesterday to four months in prison on charges of gross indecency against teenage boys at the home of Tam Paton, the former manager of the Bay City Rollers.

John Wilson, aged 41, of Mavisbank Stables, Loanhead, Lothian, was led weeping from court after being sentenced by Lord Kinross at the High Court in Edinburgh. He admitted four charges of gross indecency. Eight were not proceeded with when Wilson denied them.

In the dock with Wilson was Paton, of Little Kellars, Gogar, Edinburgh, who faced a number of charges involving teenage boys. The case against him did not go ahead and he will appear at the High Court later.

Advocate Depute Andrew Hardie said the cases against Wilson involved boys aged 13, 15, 16 and 17. Mr Donald Robertson, QC, for Wilson, said his client had not invited boys to the stables, they had gone freely.

He'll open it before you can say knife.

No one could resist the lure of the new Telemessage, with its hint of promotion. The rest of the day's mail will have to wait while its secrets are explored. And, so long as you send it in by 8pm (6pm on Sunday), we'll deliver the very next working

day or refund your money. Just dial 100 (190 in London) and ask for the Telemessage service. Or send us a telex. In either case, we won't charge you for the call. For any message that's simply got to get

through, it's good value at £3 plus VAT for 50 words, particularly as the name and address come free. For a free leaflet, with all the details including telex numbers, British just give us a call.

TELECOM

NEWS IN SUMMARY

White MP ordered to stay in jail

Salisbury.—Mr Wally Sturtford, the white MP detained in Zimbabwe for two months under an emergency powers order which has just expired, has been ordered to stay in jail indefinitely (Stephen Taylor writes). It was served on Mr Sturtford, 64, in his cell at Chikumbi maximum security prison.

The expiry of the original order required the authorities to release him in the absence of evidence to substantiate allegations that he was plotting with dissident supporters of Mr Joshua Nkomo to overthrow the government—or keep him under detention.

Mr Sturtford, a member of Mr Ian Smith's Republican Front, may now appeal to a judicial tribunal, but his recommendations can be overruled by the Minister of Home Affairs. When he was arrested in Bulawayo on December 10, Government leaders, including Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, said that he would be brought to trial shortly.

Palestinian guns hit private jet

Beirut.—A Swiss executive jet made an emergency landing here with fuel spilling from its wing after being hit by Palestinian anti-aircraft fire aimed at Israeli military aircraft, the state radio reported.

The two-engine 36A Lear jet, operated by Aero Leasing of Geneva, flew into the range of the anti-aircraft canons at 1,200ft while making an approach to Beirut airport. Nobody was hurt.

New curbs on Czechoslovaks

Prague.—Czechoslovakia has imposed new travel restrictions that are likely to reduce further visits to the West, according to official press reports here.

The daily *Smena* said that longstanding regulations allowing Czechoslovaks one trip to the West every three to five years have been dropped by the Prague authorities.

Strike called in South Africa

Some of South Africa's biggest black trade unions have called for a nationwide strike on Thursday to mourn the death in prison of Dr Neil Aggett, the white trade unionist who was found hanged in his cell at security police headquarters in Johannesburg early last Friday (Michael Hornsby writes).

The call was made by the multiracial (though predominantly black) African Food and Canning Workers' Union, of which Dr Aggett was the Transvaal secretary and supported by the Federation of South African Trade Unions, which has a mainly black membership of more than 90,000.

Doctors in big medical fraud

Canberra.—Fraud and abuse of Australia's medical insurance system by doctors is widespread, according to an internal Health Ministry report leaked to journalists.

The Australian Medical Association had estimated that 900 of the country's 27,000 doctors were involved but the document—leaked by the opposition Liberal Party—said that 2,500 doctors were involved. The Government has already announced that it would take action against doctors claiming for treatment not given.

Silence over US radiation claim

New York.—The Pentagon refused to comment on reports that radiation records on thousands of soldiers who observed atomic tests in the 1950s were falsified.

Mr Van R. Brandon, a former member of the army medical corps, claimed that the real readings were kept in a secret "hot book" that was held under lock and key by high ranking officers. He said he believed that the radiation readings recorded in the book were above the accepted safe levels—some being 50 per cent higher.

Saudi Arabia to make US arms

Riyadh.—Mr Caspar Weinberger, the United States Defence Secretary, said after meeting Crown Prince Fahd of Saudi Arabia that it was likely that the two countries would jointly produce American weapons.

He said the Saudis had submitted a number of requests for sophisticated weapon systems.

Preger trial date

Calcutta.—Magistrates have set February 20 as the trial date for Dr Jack Preger, the British medical worker among the Calcutta poor, who is opposing a deportation order. Dr Preger has been given notice under the Foreigners Act.

Child seeks refuge

Port Louis, Mauritius.—An 11-year-old child, whose father is Mauritian and whose mother is a Soviet citizen, took refuge in the Soviet Embassy here demanding to go to the Soviet Union to see his mother. The father was later given custody.

Classes reopen at Polish universities

Warsaw, Feb 8.—Polish universities resumed full-time classes today after months of interruption caused by strikes and martial law.

Conditions seemed calm at Warsaw University and security was at their usual strength in the streets, were not seen on the campus.

Students, some wearing traditional white four-cornered caps, entered the main gate without restriction but had to show identity cards to university employees when going into their faculty buildings or sign a roster if they were from another faculty.

Poland's military rulers closed down universities when martial law was imposed on December 13. But regular classes had been disrupted for several weeks, previously by strikes which began in sympathy with students at an engineering college in Radom, south of Warsaw, who were demanding the removal of an unpopular rector.

As tension subsided, the military authorities began reopening colleges last month, starting with engineering, agricultural and medical schools. But they delayed resumption of classes in universities specializing in the humanities, long regarded as potential centres of student unrest.

All traces of Solidarity and the closely-allied independent students' association NZS had disappeared from the university grounds in Warsaw. A long notice board near the main gate, once covered with uncensored posters and dissenting tracts, was all but bare.

The only notices displayed were an appeal for aid to flood victims, regulations on the conduct of student hostels under martial law, and several quotations from speeches by General Wojciech Jaruzelski, head of the military regime.

Most students said they were happy to be back but acknow-

ledged they would have to work hard to make up for lost time. Most declined to answer openly political questions but several indicated they believed the cause of academic freedom was not totally hopeless.

The NZS, which claimed 80,000 members among a total university population of 450,000, was dissolved last month by the military who accused the organization of continuing its activities in defiance of suspension under martial law.

Meanwhile, the Polish authorities, who suspended Solidarity and other trade unions when martial law was imposed eight weeks ago, have called for public discussion of a possible resumption of union activity.

The discussion will focus on a report which the Government has instructed a committee under Mr Mieczyslaw Rakowski, the deputy Prime Minister, to produce later this month. The call for the report and discussion was announced in a Government statement published today by Polish newspapers.

The Rakowski document will deal with "premises for the rebirth of the trade union movement in Poland".

London: Polish authorities are calling up thousands of unemployed men aged from 18 to 45 for compulsory work, Warsaw radio, monitored by the BBC, reported today.

In Katowice province, about 5,000 have been told to report to the employment office. In January about 3,600 men were directed to work mainly in municipal economic enterprises doing loading and ancillary tasks.

In Lodz province, about 11,000 men are being affected by the Government decree, Warsaw radio said. All were given municipal or factory jobs.

Nato stays its hand on Warsaw sanctions

By David Cross

With the notable exception of Britain, Nato member governments are taking their time in announcing any measures they might take to mark their disapproval of military rule in Poland.

But, according to reports from a number of West European capitals, other members of the Nato alliance have simply paused for a moment of reflection, as the Italian Government puts it. In due course, they indicate, they too will follow the lead set by President Reagan at the end of last year.

The West German Government, which has been among the most reluctant to introduce sanctions against either the Soviet Union or Poland has now decided to follow the lead of the other Nato members. It will not be delayed indefinitely.

So far, it has stopped new economic aid to Poland and has refused to negotiate a restructuring of Poland's debts during the current financial year. Humanitarian aid continues, however.

It is not entirely clear what any new measures are likely to include against either Warsaw or Moscow. The only certainty is that they will stop far short of a trade embargo. Nevertheless, Bonn acknowledged that it will have to take further action if there is no perceptible easing of martial law.

Among the various political measures being considered by the French Government are restrictions on the movement of Polish diplomats and journalists, similar to those announced last Friday by Britain. The French Government has also taken the initiative in raising the Polish question at the Madrid security conference this week; in addition there has been a distinct slowing

down of cultural and scientific exchanges in recent weeks.

In the case of the Soviet Union, the French Government has, however, made it clear that it is totally opposed to economic sanctions on the ground that they wrongly imply the existence of a state of war. The signing of the controversial natural gas deal with Moscow, which has so far been suspended, is clear evidence of French policy on this front.

On the other hand, France has joined its Nato partners in promising not to undermine the effectiveness of the American ban on exports of high technology to the Soviet Union. Similar strategic exports to Poland have been stopped.

Like all the Nato governments with the exception of Greece, the Italians are refusing to extend new credits to Poland and are trying to ensure that humanitarian aid reaches the Polish people by channeling it through such international organizations as Caritas and the Red Cross. Apart from these "minor moves", it is not entirely clear what further measures are under consideration.

The Belgian Government, which has so far adopted only the measures agreed by member governments of the EEC (suspension of credits to Poland, etc.), is contemplating some diplomatic steps if restrictions on its own representatives in Poland are not eased in the near future.

The United States will undoubtedly wait until all its Nato partners have revealed their hands before it makes any public pronouncement. Washington appears to have accepted the inevitability of something far less swinging.

Provided that all the main allies produce some sanctions within the coming days, it seems likely that Washington will pronounce itself reasonably satisfied.

CAIRO-BONN ACCORD ON WEST BANK

Bonn, Feb 8.—President Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, reassured the Palestinian right to self-rule at a joint press conference here today.

Herr Schmidt referred to "the right to peace and security of all countries of the region, including Israel, and, simultaneously, the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination."

Mr Mubarak followed the line he had taken in Washington and London before coming to Bonn, and said Egypt and West Germany were determined to continue to work for a global solution of the Middle East problem.

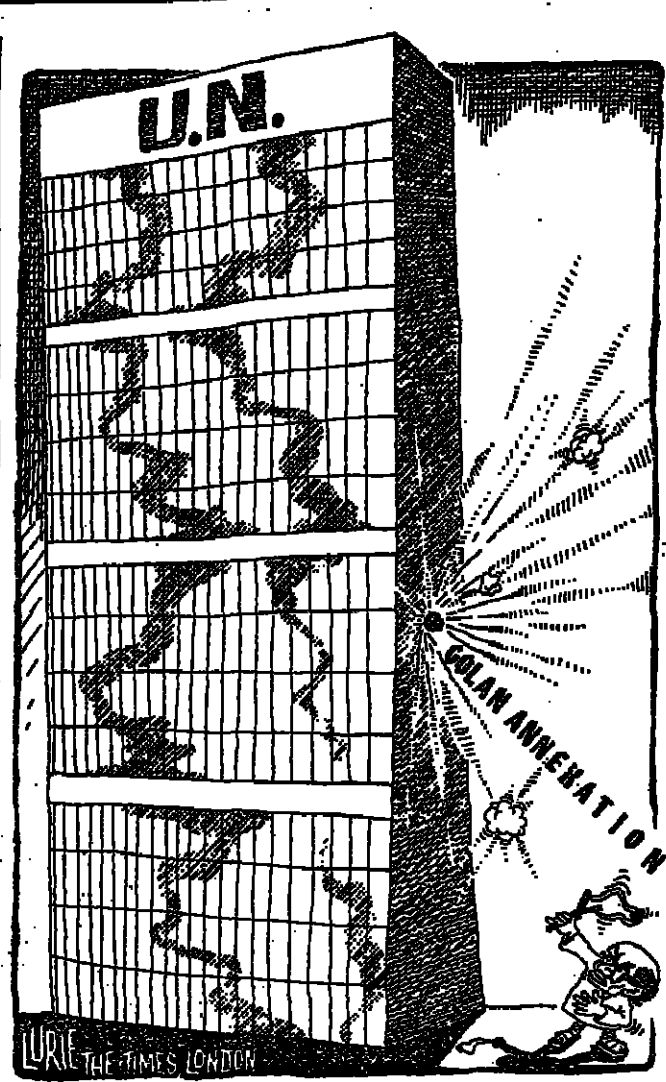
"The creation of a self-governing authority in the West Bank of the Jordan river and in Gaza would be a first, useful step within the Camp David framework," he added, followed by "the application of the right to self-government of the Palestinian people."

The Palestinians, President Mubarak continued, "are the key to a Middle East settlement," and European countries should play "a mediating role to help initiate a dialogue



Haig meets his match

Mr Alexander Haig, United States Secretary of State, taking time off from politics yesterday for a private tennis match with the champion player Manuel Santana in Madrid.



Menachem and Goliath

Call to arms in Congress

From Nicholas Hirst, Washington, Feb 8

Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, has backed up his department's proposed record peacetime defence spending of \$215,900m (£116,000m) in the 1983 budget with a sharp attack on the Soviet Union.

In his annual report to Congress, published today, he has anticipated opposition to the \$33,100m, (18 per cent) increase proposed for defence spending with a warning that "there is nothing hypothetical about Soviet power."

It is, he says, "the greatest single threat to the United States and the free world." He accuses the Russians of breaking an international convention on biological warfare and says that if they have been cheating it creates "a most serious problem for any new arms agreement with the Soviet Union."

President Reagan believes it important to build up United States military forces to negotiate arms reductions from a position of strength. But both Republicans and Democrats are looking for cuts in the 1983 defence spending proposals.

Mr Weinberger says the increase, equal to more than a third of the projected 1983 total budget deficit of \$91,500m is needed to reverse "a decade of neglect."

But Democrats feel that weapons are being financed on the backs of the poor as social programmes are cut and Republicans are dismayed at the size of the deficit.

"When hawks like me are

talking about cutting military spending," Senator William Armstrong, a conservative Republican for Colorado, said at the weekend, "you know something is in the wind."

Of total federal spending of \$758,000m in 1982, 29 per cent will go on defence compared with 25 per cent in 1980, the last year of the Carter administration.

The Department of Defence is expecting opposition to its proposals. Mr Frank Carlucci, the deputy secretary on releasing the detailed figures over the weekend, said that the spending was fully justified and should not be weighed against social programmes but set against the threat from the Soviet Union.

"We think we have put together a minimal budget to meet the threat and we look forward to defending it on the Hill," he said.

The defence budget forms an integral part of the President's strategic nuclear programme of strengthening long range land, sea and air weapons. Over the next four years he plans to increase overall defence spending at a real growth rate, adjusted for inflation, of 7.4 per cent. As a proportion of gross national product defence spending is projected to rise from 5 to 7 per cent.

But in 1983 the real increase in spending will be considerably higher than the projected average rising 10.5 per cent on the previous year. It is an obvious point of attack for the Democrats, but it will be coun-

tered by Mr Carlucci's claim that money being spent now will bring savings in the future. Estimating had been strict and realistic, he said, and intended to take account of future rises in costs.

The increase in money the Pentagon is asking for in 1983, including funds for future years, is even greater than the increase in projected spending of 13.3 per cent in real terms to \$295,000. Again the Pentagon contends that this increase is to bring about future savings. The ordering of two nuclear aircraft carriers together would save \$750m.

For strategic forces the Defence Department is asking \$25,100m in 1983 compared with \$16,200m in 1982, to help redress the imbalance with the Soviet Union which Pentagon analysts believe will be at its worse in the middle of this decade.

Some \$4,737m is earmarked for the controversial B1 bomber. The Pershing 2 missile which is to be deployed in Europe gets \$620m, the air-launched cruise missile \$864m and the ground-launched cruise \$845m. Trident 2 is to get \$367m and the MX, for which a long-term basing system is still being researched, \$4,463m.

Money is also earmarked for conventional forces to increase mobility of troops including the Rapid Deployment Force aimed at countering aggression in the Middle East and for improved stocks of ammunition and spares.

American social issues, 2

Anti-abortion groups seize their chance

This article by Nicholas Hirst is the second of three by our Washington staff on social issues facing the United States Congress.

In the next few weeks congressional conservatives are expected to make their strongest attempt so far to reintroduce laws banning abortion.

The push has come from conservatives such as Senator Jesse Helms and Senator John East, both Republicans for North Carolina, and the politically astute Senator Orrin Hatch, Republican for Utah, who wish to reverse the effects of a 1973 Supreme Court ruling.

That interpreted the constitution in such a way as to state which outlawed abortion. Ever since, anti-abortion groups have been trying, by every means possible, to get the position reversed.

Now, with a President who has declared himself against abortion, a conservative majority in the Senate and anti-abortionists in control of some key sub-committees, the anti-abortion groups see their best chance.

As in Britain, abortion is a subject which arouses strong emotions on both sides and is suffused with religious and moral overtones. The tone and content of anti-abortion literature is often harrowing. One organization, March For Life, compares abortion to the Nazi holocaust. The pro-abortion lobby attacks the anti-abortionists for attempting to restrict birth controls as well.

Pro- and anti-abortionists do not divide on party lines, making it a tricky political subject for the Administration, which so far has kept its distance, concentrating last year on tax and budget legislation. When pressed, President Reagan gives a hesitant outline of his anti-abortion position, but has not been anywhere near the vanguard of those wishing to change the law.

Time for debate, however, is likely to be made available now. Senator Helms has introduced Bills and a constitutional amendment intended to ban abortions except where the mother's life is in danger. Known as the Human Life Bill, Senator Helms's proposal describes life as beginning at the moment of conception. In that case, any unborn baby has

the full protection of the constitution and cannot be aborted without due process of law. There is considerable debate as to whether this Bill, which could be passed by a simple majority of both houses of Congress, is constitutionally valid in the face of the Supreme Court ruling.

The greatest momentum behind a constitutional amendment proposed by Senator Hatch, elected to Congress in 1980 before the full Senate judiciary committee. This would give Congress and individual states the right to restrict or prohibit abortion and would secure that no right to abortion is secured by the constitution.

The amendment has the backing of the United States Catholic Conference, but is attacked by March For Life as not going far enough, and only narrowly won the support of the influential National Right to Life Committee.

The goal of the National Right to Life Committee, Mr Douglas Johnson, its legislative director, says is to inhibit abortion except where the life of the mother is endangered. In his view, the 1973 Supreme Court decision (fabricated a constitutional right) to give women the choice of abortion.

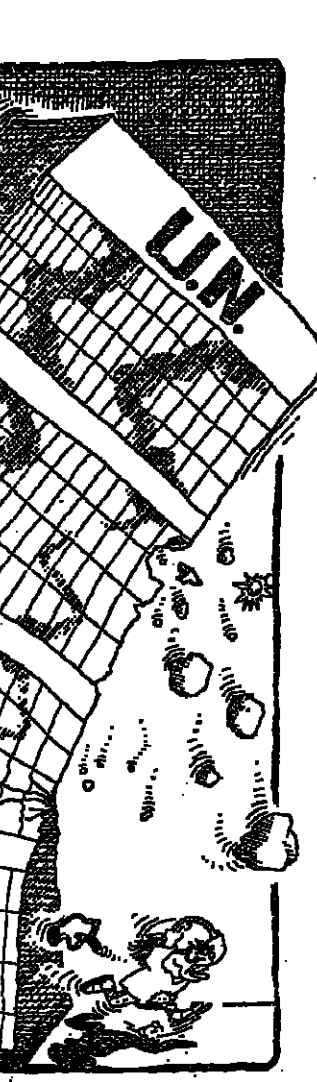
It wants that decision reversed, but a constitutional amendment would need a two-thirds majority in both houses and ratification by two-thirds of the states. It is doubtful if there are the votes in either the Senate or the House, and ratification would be fought very hard indeed.

Women's groups and the National Abortion Rights Action League remained worried that the anti-abortionist may have some success.

Mrs Jane Wells-Schooley, vice-president of the National Organization of Women, believes that the Human Life Bill is the standard for legislation that would follow any constitutional amendment, and that by declaring that life begins at conception it would prohibit the use of some contraceptives.

SOIL STRATEGY

Delhi.—Scientists from 70 countries have started talks here on putting together a worldwide soil management policy to prevent further loss of forest cover and topsoil, vital for agriculture.



Mauroy in mood of moderation

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Feb 8

M. Pierre Mauroy, the Prime Minister, today resorted to the Socialists' Government's commitment to an open economy and free trade. "Our economic policy does not ignore the realities of international competition. It will not lead us to a turning in on the hexagon," he told a symposium of 300 foreign businessmen organized by the *International Herald Tribune* in a Paris hotel today and tomorrow. Eight members of the government were also due to address the symposium.

The Prime Minister's speech was a model of moderation and balance, calculated to appease foreign businessmen, if not to stimulate their enthusiasm. "The opening of the French economy to the outside world is a necessity and I would add an opportunity," he insisted. The government wished to correct the image of a country "difficult and inhospitable towards foreign investments."

It must have an "open, positive, and pragmatic policy." Foreign investments would be judged on the basis of three criteria: their impact on employment (government aid

for regional development would be doubled); their contribution to technological development; and their impact on French exports.

"We are not monetarists," the Prime Minister said, "but we are fully aware that without a stable currency, contained inflation, sound savings, and financial circling in good working order, nothing will be possible."

Monetary policy would remain strict. Steps would be taken to encourage investment in both bonds and shares. The French financial market was too narrow in relation to foreign ones. It would be broadened and modernized. The budget deficit would be held to 3 per cent of domestic product, but that would be concerned not to increase the tax burden of firms," he declared.

Man for the job? page 10

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Egypt asks
for return
of Sphinx's
beard
From Christopher Walker
Cairo

A SMALL INDUCEMENT TO ENCOURAGE YOU TO MAKE A BIG DISCOVERY.

Until now, low-tar cigarettes have not only lacked taste, they've also lacked a certain *je ne sais quoi*.

And that's despite all the promises to the contrary.

FREE PACK!

FOR EVERY 10 IN-PACK COUPONS.

So convincing you that du Maurier low tar is the cigarette you've been waiting for is not going to be easy.

Which only leaves us one option: To make you a special introductory double offer you'll find difficult to refuse.

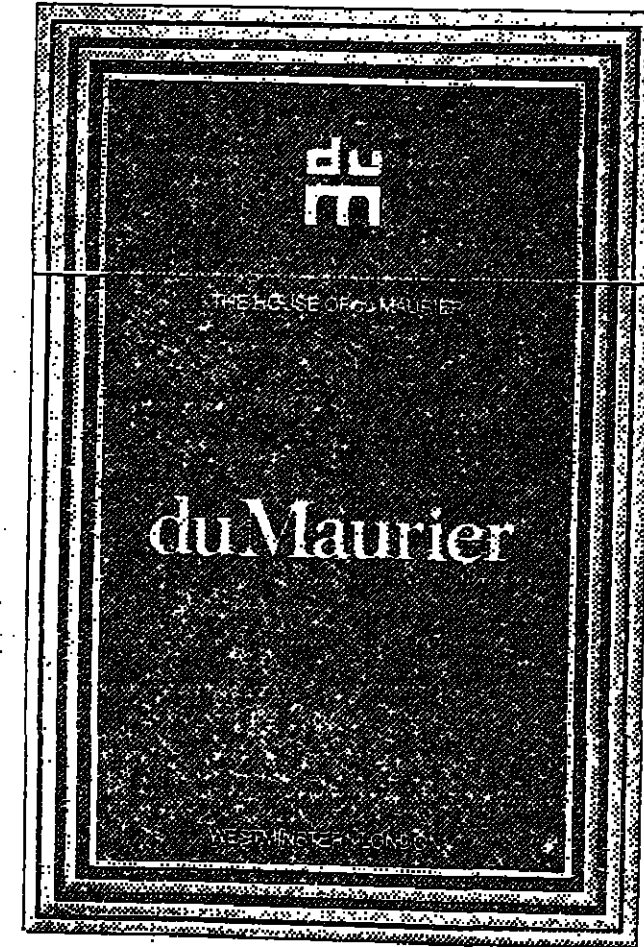
3p off your next pack. Or, in exchange for 10 in-pack coupons, a completely free pack.

Is that a tempting enough offer to give du Maurier low tar a try?

We hope it is. Because for the very first time you'll discover a low tar cigarette that really does have more than mere taste.

Now isn't that a discovery worth making?

Discover du Maurier.



Discover Low Tar.

LOW TAR Manufacturer's estimate

DANGER: H.M. Government Health Departments' WARNING:
THINK ABOUT THE HEALTH RISKS BEFORE SMOKING.

Fashion: Suits for Spring by Suzy Menkes

Briton in Tokyo fire sought by police

From Peter Hazelton
Tokyo, Feb 8



Stewardess details
Pin-box hat by Edward Mann from Selfridges, John Lewis, DH Evans, Rackhams Birmingham, Kendal Mine, Manchester.

Spencer jacket
Gilt piped navy bolero jacket with soft navy skirt (not shown) by Max Mara, approx £160 the set from Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW1; Lisa Sterling, Chester.

Officer short
Round-collared short sleeved pin-striped shirt £17.95 by Alexon from Selfridges, Debenhams London and Bristol, Ricemans Canterbury, Howells Cardiff, Frasers Glasgow, all next month.

Defined waist
Wide waist-cinching double belt by Otto Glanz £18 from Fenwick's.

Pin-stripe skirt
Straight skirt with front pleat £42 by Laurel at Fenwick's.

Hair by Linden
at Neville Daniel.

Photographs by
Tony Mason.

Co-respondent shoes
Two-tone loafers in navy and white. Madras shoes, £31 from Simpsons, Marco at Flori, Chichester, Bag & Baggage Royal Exchange Square Glasgow.



Dapper Details
Shiny bow tie brooch, black velvet tie and studded black leather belt by Otto Glanz, all from Fenwick's. Black and white striped earrings by Corcoran.

Cotton knit
Cap-sleeve sweater with V-neck by Dally Blue £23 from Head Over Heels, Wardour Street, W1; Susan Smart, Stockport. With officer collar white silk blouse with attached bow tie £44.95 from Fenwick's.

Box jacket
Double breasted with epaulettes in Prince of Wales check by Wallis.

Culotte skirt
Long, soft, divided skirt by Wallis, £55 the suit from main Wallis branches.

Shoes
White grosgrain Indian pumps with gilt moons, £18 from Chelsea Clobber shops.



Belted details
Black and white silk pin, white hanky and Knit's pin stripe lights all from Fenwick of Bond Street. White fabric gloves by Dant-Fornes.

Wing-collared shirt
In white cotton with pleat front £15.95 from Fenwick's, New Bond Street and Stirling Cooper shops.

Officer jacket
Round-necked Prince of Wales check wool jacket £34.95, short checked waistcoat £24.95, in navy, beige, grey or navy/red check by Reldan from Selfridges, Dickens and Jones, Harvey Nichols, Kendalls, Manchester, Frasers, Glasgow.

Straight trousers
In Prince of Wales £33.95 with two alternative skirt shapes from Reldan, stockists as above.

Shiny shoes
In metallic blue, red and black £24.99 from Hobbs, 47 South Molton Street, W1.

Some new liaisons on the way

As with society, so with the suit: couples that once seemed inseparable split up, forge fresh links and then re-form into new partnerships.

A Spring suit used to mean a jacket and skirt. The trouser suit was the first challenge to this traditional coupling. Now pants suits, and especially the evening tuxedo, are part of fashion's family. The culotte skirt is the new love in the life of your old jacket, with culotte suits one of the snappiest Spring outfits. You can find blazer and bermudas stepping out together or divided

skirts courting waistcoats. Tunics make up to trousers or to slim skirts. Short curly jackets partner long soft skirts.

The basic silhouette of the suit has changed this season. Jackets are shorter, crisper and remind me of those perky bell boys who stand to toytown attention in smart hotels.

The French have a word for the new jacket shape, which Paris is backing strongly. They call it "le spencer" supposedly after a jacket introduced by the Second Earl Spencer in the nineteenth century. I doubt whether his illustrious descendant will be wearing the short, waist-hugging jacket in her present condition. But perhaps in deference to the Royal connexion, most of the British spencer jackets are being made in Prince of Wales check.

The short jacket ushers in a new mood of tailoring and

brings with it a host of bell captain details. The wing-collared shirt takes over from the frilled neck as the shirt of the season. The stick pin at the throat is strangling the pearl choker. Both the waistcoat and the belted waist are in favour.

The sharp, spare silhouette is pointed up by the use of checked and striped fabrics, often mixed within one outfit. Thus a striped shirt has a plain round white collar; a bookie's check waistcoat goes under a quieter check jacket; ticking striped linen teams with a plain skirt.

In spite of the masculine fabrics, it all adds up to a fresh and surprisingly feminine look for the suit which stuck for so long with the blazer shape. Even if funds do not run to investing in a new outfit, you can follow the new line by putting a fitted spencer waistcoat, pointed at the

front like a steward's uniform, under your existing suit.

If you are buying new, you must demand that your suit works hard for you. The suit that stays together is no longer the mainstay of your wardrobe. Each piece should divide and reform with the rest of your separates so that you get maximum wear for what must be a major investment.

I think that there is a lot to be said for buying three items of related separates from the companies like Alexon, Planet and Reldan, who specialize in this field and whose collections are in major stores. A jacket, waistcoat and skirt, or trousers as well as a skirt, or culottes in addition to a regular skirt/pants, will maximize your suit's fashionable life.

Accessories have undergone a sea-change since one pair of plain court shoes and matching

bag partnered your suit. The steward's white gloves add a perky touch to a season that builds on black and white. Broad leather belts, often with a narrow buckle strap, define the waist. Fancy mesh or striped tights enliven plain legs. Shoes are universally low-heeled and look newest in shiny patent or with co-respondent contrasts.

The new surge of life through the suit and the welter of dapper details, are a boon for working women who have felt neglected during the elaborations of the ethnic layers or the rush for romance.

I have often thought that the much heralded Death of the Suit was going to mean the death of all of us, since we were expected to make the leap out of woollies and into flimsy cottons at the end of January. The suit, in all its guises, is tailor made for

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Looking for a fresh executive face

A fascinating experiment in male grooming is taking place in the heart of London's West End.

With a shiny blue-tiled bar on one side and a selection of macho (or masochistic) exercise machines on the other, a male beauty salon was opened by Aramis last week.

Selfridges Beauty Play-ground, where women can try out and be advised on cosmetics and treatments, is now as much a part of Spring as the First Cuckoo. Women this year are play paying £1 (redeemable against product purchases) for the right to paint on a new face.

Tucked discreetly beside their playpen on the fourth floor, is the Aramis area, which is free to men who want to re-think their image, to improve their muscle power, to try out a new hair style or to get rid of their pimples.

The skin care and treatment area (with Aramis 900 products) has been given the greatest emphasis, which is probably a wise move given the British male's doubting and timid view of toiletries.

Visitors so far have been evenly divided between the young 19 year olds, mostly wanting advice for skin problems and the late thirties, looking for a fresh executive face.

Selfridges Beauty Play-ground until Saturday February 13.

Queen's Bench Division

Law Report February 9 1982

Court of Appeal

Previous conduct of dog is admissible

Maile v Lenton
Before Mr Justice Gidwell
[Judgment delivered February 5]

In proceedings against a dog owner alleging that on a specific date the dog was dangerous and not kept under proper control contrary to section 2 of the Dogs Act 1871, evidence of the conduct of the dog on previous occasions was admissible as being relevant to the question of whether or not it was dangerous. Mr Justice Gidwell held in the Queen's Bench Division when allowing an appeal by the complainant, Donald Maile, against a decision of Cambridge County Justices sitting at Cambridge.

Mr Bernard Livesey for the complainant; the dog owner was neither present nor represented.

MR JUSTICE GIDWELL said that on June 10, 1981, the justices were hearing a complaint against the defendant, Peter Sydney Lenton, that on December 11, 1980, he was the owner of a dog which was dangerous and not kept under proper control contrary to section 2 of the Act. The dog was alleged to have been involved in an earlier incident on August 12, 1980, when it had demonstrated some attribute which was relevant to the question of whether it was dangerous. The complainant sought to adduce evidence to that incident as tending to show that the dog had a propensity to attack or bite human beings and as showing lack of control on the part of the owner. The owner objected and referred to the law

Safe-port warranty not breached by Iran-Iraq war

Kodros Shipping Corporation of Monrovia v Empresa Cubana de Fletes (The Evia)
Before Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Shaw and Lord Justice Ackner
[Judgment delivered February 5]

Charterparty under a time charter for 18 months from November 1979, who ordered a vessel to Basra in the Shatt-al-Arab waterway, was in breach of the safe port warranty in the charterparty by reason of the outbreak of hostilities between Iran and Iraq on September 22, 1980, involving heavy fighting in and around Basra, and the owners were only entitled to hire up to October 4, 1980, on which date the charterparty was frustrated by reason of the war.

The requirement of a safe port was that it had to be reasonably safe, in its geographical configuration on the coast or waterway and in the equipment and aids available for her movement and stay, for the vessel to enter, remain and depart without suffering damage, so long as she was well and truly at the port.

The safe port warranty was in clause 2 of the charterparty, on the Baltimore form, which provided: "The vessel to be employed in law or trades for the carriage of lawful merchandise only between good and safe ports or places."

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Safe-port warranty not breached by Iran-Iraq war

But the charterer did warrant that the port would be safe to enter and that the vessel would be able to enter because of a rebellion had broken out, or a war was imminent, or because government orders made it impossible for the vessel to enter. The master could then turn back and discharge the cargo at an appropriate place, and claim damages for the failure to nominate a safe port.

Applying those principles, it was clear that although Basra was within a zone which was dangerous, it was itself a safe port when the *Evia* arrived and was being unloaded there. The set-up of the port was perfectly good.

When the war erupted on September 22, that was an utterly abnormal and extraneous occurrence. It rendered the port unsafe, but was not a breach of the warranty. When the vessel was prevented from leaving, and ordered not to leave, that too was an abnormal and extraneous occurrence, and not a breach of warranty.

Since Basra was within a zone which was dangerous as a result of threat of warlike operations, and the owners consented to the vessel being there, clause 21(B) of the charterparty came into operation.

It provided: "Should the vessel approach or be brought or ordered within such zone... (1) the owners to be entitled from time to time to insure the cargo against any of the risks likely to be involved thereby... the charterers to make a refund to the owners of the premium on demand; and (2) hire to be paid for all time lost..."

The owners did insure the vessel and obtained, or were entitled to obtain, refund of the premium. So if the vessel were damaged by shell-fire, the owners could recover the amount from the insurers. It was inconceivable that they could also recover from the charterers for breach of the safe port warranty.

Mr Stoen submitted that the insurance provisions were irrelevant and should be disregarded. His Lordship disagreed. In framing those commercial contracts the commercial men were providing for the way in which the risks of damage or loss of time were most economically to be borne. The risk of damage

Safe-port warranty not breached by Iran-Iraq war

caused by warlike operations was clearly to be borne by the owners, and that of delay by the charterers.

Clause 21 did not cover frustration. If and when frustration did occur it brought the whole contract to an end including clause 21 itself.

The one remaining question was whether the charterparty was frustrated, and if so, when. It was necessary to quote Lord Roskill in *The Nema* (The Times, July 17, 1981; [1981] 3 W.L.R. 292, 312): "... where the effect of that event is to cause delay in the performance of contractual obligations, it is often necessary to wait upon events in order to see whether the delay already suffered and the prospects of further delay from that cause, will make any ultimate performance of the relevant contractual obligations radically different... from that which was undertaken by the contract."

"But... businessmen must not be required to await events too long... Whether or not the delay is such as to bring about frustration must be a question to be determined by an informed judgment based upon all the evidence of what has occurred and what is likely..."

The required informed judgment must be that of the tribunal of fact to whom the issue has been referred."

The umpire found the contract was frustrated on October 4, 1980, and the judge agreed. That placed the court in a difficulty because in much the same circumstances the arbitrators in *The Wenjiang* (The Times, December 2, 1981) and in the Chrysalis arbitration held the date was November 24. It was desirable that the court should come to a decision as to what date was correct, as it was in the interest of legal certainty that there should be uniformity: see per Lord Diplock in *The Nema* (p 305) and his Lordship in *The Wenjiang*.

However, his Lordship had studied closely the arbitrators' findings in all three cases, and could find nothing wrong with any of them. Each had directed himself properly on the law, and there was no ground for interfering.

The answer was to uphold the decision of the umpire in the present case. If the awards, in

Safe-port warranty not breached by Iran-Iraq war

But in the present case the port was unsafe by reason of hostilities in its vicinity, and it was that characteristic of the port which caused delay to the ship. That being so, it was irrelevant that the damages could be described as abnormal.

The charterers therefore could not rely on frustration as a defence to a claim for damages for breach of contract, since it was self-induced. However since they had not acted unreasonably or negligently, they were entitled to say that the charter had come to an end.

The point, though apparently of no practical significance in the present case, was important since although the owners had a valid claim to damages, their obligation to mitigate the damages might be of special significance.

The owners were granted leave to appeal.

Solicitors: Coward Chance, Jace & Co.

No new facts on appeal

Regina v Immigration Appeal Tribunal, Ex parte Kotecha
Evidence adduced on an appeal to an adjudicator from a decision of an entry clearance officer must relate to the facts as they existed at the date of that decision, Mr Justice Gidwell held in the Queen's Bench Division on February 4.

HIS LORDSHIP said that under section 19(2) of the Immigration Act 1971, the

No new facts on appeal

adjudicator had to deal with the appeal on the basis of the factual position before the entry clearance officer. *R v Immigration Appeal Tribunal, Ex parte Kotecha* (1978) Imm AR 163 did not consider whether evidence as to later facts ought to be admitted and in reaching his decision, his Lordship approved the decision of the Immigration Appeal Tribunal in *Visa Officer, Karachi v Hassan Mohammed* (1978) Imm AR 168, 172, 173.

No new facts on appeal

The owners claimed damages from the charterers on the ground that the charterers had warranted that Basra was and would be a safe port for the

No new facts on appeal

She berthed on August 20, 1980. On September 22, with eight months of the charterparty still to go, she was ready to leave. But on that very day there was fighting in and around the port; war had broken out between Iran and Iraq. The *Evia* was trapped. She was still there, as were 60 other ships.

No new facts on appeal

The owners claimed damages from the charterers on the ground that the charterers had warranted that Basra was and would be a safe port for the

Phillips

FINE FURS BY AUCTION

Thursday, 18th February at 10 a.m.

This sale will include fine quality Mink coats and jackets, good quality fashion fur from a leading West End furrier, the quality Fox coats and jackets together with a large selection of furs in all price ranges both new and secondhand.

Viewing Tuesday, 16th February, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
Wednesday, 17th February, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Catalogues 50p by post.

The department are now accepting entries for inclusion in Phillips Fur Sale to be held on Thursday, 25th March.

For further information please contact Doreen Ross, Ext. 222, 7 St. Dunstons St., W1. Tel: 01-229 8802.



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

POISON IN THE AIR

The report in *The Times* yesterday that the Chief Medical Officer at the Department of Health had issued a confidential letter warning that lead in petrol is probably permanently damaging the health and mental activity of many children will, it should, raise the temperature of an already heated issue.

In itself Sir Henry Yellowlees' letter does not finally settle the scientific question of proof. The Lawlor Report published in 1980 challenged the link between lead and brain damage. The main research studies launched subsequently in Britain remain incomplete and a minority of respected researchers are unconvinced. Certainly these studies must be pursued with vigour and it would be indefensible if any of them suffered from the current cuts in environmental research. Equally the relevant papers and evidence, from within Departments as well as outside, should be published as soon as possible. The particular advice of officials to ministers should be protected but the evidence and options shaping decisions should not be hidden. This matter concerns not spies but children.

In fact the weight of evidence, as Sir Henry Yellowlees states, already points firmly in the direction of risk, especially from car exhausts which emit around 10,000 tons of lead a year into British air. In any case we should not have to wait until the very last mathematical correlation has been established to announce proudly that there is final proof that children have continued to be blighted while the research was concluded. The balance of risk is clearly such as to justify the maximum control on the emission of lead poisons.

The Government has not been deaf to the fears voiced by critics in the DHSS and among the public at large. Last year it decided that from 1985 the maximum level of liquid lead allowed to be added to petrol was to be reduced from 0.40 grams per litre to 0.15 grams. But that decision (the fifth such reduction in ten years) smelted of departmental compromise. Those, such as the Treasury and the Department of Energy, who worried about the cost of eliminating toxic lead argued for a minimal reduction. Those who were convinced of the danger to children's health (and the cost of treating lead poisoning) could only in logic argue for the rapid and major reduction or elimination of lead in petrol. The outcome was a familiar compromise, unsatisfactory in view of the dangers involved. If the medical case against lead holds, then 1985 is too long ahead and 0.15 grams per litre—above the level at which lead damage to the body has been established—is too high. Moreover, there is no commitment to further reduction beyond 1985, whereas the United States, Japan, Australia, Germany and Sweden are all committed to a transition to completely lead-free petrol. Our motor car exporters will

then no longer have access to those markets unless they adjust in line.

Two arguments, one minor, one major, will have to be met by those who are now pressing for more urgent action. First is the existence of EEC standards which stand in the way of eliminating lead altogether. These need not however deter a government determined to alter both the prevailing EEC standards and our own.

The question of cost is less readily dismissed. Although the precise numbers are not easy to establish, it is widely accepted that eliminating lead from petrol alone would cost the oil companies some two hundred million pounds in new plant and add three or four pence to a gallon of petrol—while also removing the danger from paint, old pipes and factory emissions would add considerably to that.

It is natural for campaigners to consider no cost too high to satisfy their particular cause. In fact society often shies at the cost of eliminating an evil, as it does at the price of stopping the annual slaughter on our roads. But this is not a case of reckless individuals choosing to maim themselves along with others. It concerns tens of thousands of children, born and yet to be born, the future generation of this country at risk of being disadvantaged. It is not every child; and the risk is not a certainty. But the risk is too great to bear, and the price of eliminating the poison is far from being too high to pay.

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KEEPING ALIVE THE HELSINKI PROCESS

Foreign ministers are converging on Madrid this week to address the meeting which has been reviewing the Helsinki Final Act of 1975 since September, 1980. The fact they think their journey worthwhile testifies to the continuing importance of the Helsinki document. Yet the reason for their journey, Poland, is so controversial that it could bleed away the last flickers of life from the Helsinki process.

The odds are that a formal breakdown will be avoided because no one wants to be responsible for it, but there is a danger that agreement on a concluding document will now become so difficult that the meeting will be diverted into a series of face-saving adjournments. The Americans are already clear that they want an adjournment until next September. The West Germans, on the other hand, would prefer to keep talking. The British are in search of compromise, believing that there is little chance of a useful agreement at present but that the process must be kept alive. The neutrals and non-aligned, whose draft concluding document was within sight of winning gen-

eral agreement before the military takeover in Poland, are particularly anxious that hope should not be abandoned.

It is obvious that Poland must be discussed. For the Poles and their allies to suggest otherwise is absurd. The imposition of martial law clearly breaches several sections of the Helsinki Final Act, notably those on human and civil rights and international communications. If it was carried out under direct Soviet pressure it also breaches the sections on sovereignty and non-interference. It is precisely the sort of action which the Final Act is intended to prevent.

This has tempted some people to argue that if such a massive coach and horses can be driven through the Final Act it must be worthless and might as well be abandoned, especially as the Warsaw Pact countries are anyway guilty of continual lesser breaches. But nothing would be gained and much lost if this argument were to influence western policy. The Final Act was a very considerable diplomatic victory for the West. It did not give the Russians the confirmation of the status

quo which they sought. Instead it provided a charter for more open relations between east and west Europe which has been a constant embarrassment to them, and a source of constant hope to those working for a lowering of east-west barriers. It also provides a European forum in which not only Poland but a host of other issues can be raised.

The fact that the Final Act is regularly breached (even to a limited extent by western countries) is no reason for abandoning it altogether. It embodies and legitimizes aspirations for a freer Europe. These aspirations are particularly strong in the smaller countries of east and west, but they should also be shared by larger powers. The Polish crisis is naturally a severe setback but it does not invalidate the aspirations. For the moment it probably makes a constructive agreement in Madrid impossible, but western participants should not allow this to jeopardize the process of consultation and mutual criticism which the Helsinki conference set in motion. It serves Western interests more than it serves those of the Soviet Union.

FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

Mr Peter Walker, the Minister of Agriculture is a self-made man. He made his fortune from scratch, starting without capital and operating freely within his chosen market. He is now a farmer of some consequence, having just sold one farm and being about to buy another. It is thus strange to witness his reluctance to create conditions in the market for agricultural land which could enable other young men without capital to achieve the successes and the wealth which Mr Walker achieved in his own commercial activities some years ago. Mr Walker is resolutely refusing to change the basis of agricultural tenancies, though his own department does not dispute the merits of the argument for doing so. The Minister's excuse is that the politics of the case are unwise.

In 1976 the Labour Government passed an Act which more or less guaranteed security of tenure to the sons and even grandsons of existing tenant farmers. The effect of that Act has been to dry up the availability of agricultural land for tenancy, which has now dropped to 41% of the total acreage farmed. A reasonable calculation is that at least one million acres have been thus taken out of the market by landlords unwilling to enter into tenancies which

have such impenetrable and unwinding security about them. The effect on the pattern of land distribution is bad since it means that more and more land is being concentrated in the hands of either of institutions or of large freeholders who are waiting for each and every reversion of a tenancy. At least 30 per cent of the land transactions in the last 12 months has involved land being bought by major institutions.

The pattern of reasonably small agricultural tenancies which tend to be more efficient than those under owner occupation is therefore being threatened. Moreover, the opportunities for young men to enter farming as entrepreneurs are becoming few and far between, since they can apply only to men with the kind of capital which can buy land freehold at the exorbitant prices now obtaining. Some refuge may be found in agricultural partnerships and there is some talk about a scheme for shorter tenancies. Today the National Farmers Union will discuss a motion calling on Dr Walker to proceed forthwith to introduce a bill along lines agreed with The Country Landowners Association, the National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs, The Tenant Farmers Association and The

Association of Small Farmers—in other words, every body which has an interest in the situation.

They are all agreed on the need for such an amendment to liberate land and create opportunities for young men to go into farming without the need for enormous purchase capital behind them. What capital they had could be employed as working capital, to the greater efficiency of farming and the benefit of the country as a whole.

Mr Walker initially declined because he felt that, unless the Labour Party agreed to such an amendment there was no point in passing it. With the falling away of the Labour Party's chances of becoming the next government, that excuse has been replaced by one suggesting that the Conservative Government would attract unnecessary political criticism for passing a Bill that could be held up as a "Landlords Charter", in spite of the fact that all parties affected by the Bill want it to be passed. In the meantime, British farming in spite of its excellence is facing a future with few outlets for committed young entrepreneurs to stay in agriculture. Mr Walker, remembering his own youthful achievements, should not let his political apprehensions unduly dominate a case which has such merit.

Housing policy

From Mr Kurt Klappholz
Sir, The Director of Shelter (February 2) extols the benefits of rented accommodation, be it "public or private", and is anxious to extend its availability. I cannot be the only one among your readers for such a strange sermon. Shelter was one of the major pressure groups in favour of the 1974 Rent Act which

finally eliminated the availability of new privately rented accommodation to residents of this country. Yet, there is not even a mention of rent control among Mr McIntosh's proposals to "... allow each tenure system to develop..."

It seems that, despite the ever-growing sophistication of economic journalism, teachers of economics are not yet wasting their time by continuously emphasizing the role of demand

and supply in markets. Having considered the supply side, perhaps Mr McIntosh and Shelter will now mount a campaign, as energetic as that of 1974, for the abolition of rent control, at least for new tenants?

Yours faithfully,
KURT KLAPPHOLZ,
Reader in Economics,
The London School of Economics
and Political Science,
Houghton Street, WC2.
February 4

Reinforcing powers of European Court

From Mr H. F. O. Bewsher

Sir, I refer to the letter of Mr Alan Tyrrell, QC, regarding the powers of the European Court and delays by member states in complying with its judgments (February 4).

I accept that from a constitutional point of view "delay is different from denial", but other points of view should not be ignored. In commerce justice too late is not justice.

The following example will illustrate the point. The European Court condemned certain discriminatory taxes on Scotch whisky in France on February 27, 1980. Nearly two years later tax discrimination still exists, and the French Government has indicated its intention that it shall continue at least until February 1983.

The total amount of tax unlawfully levied on Scotch whisky imports into France between the date of the European Court's judgment and the end of 1981 was more than £60m. The effect on competition between Scotch whisky and French spirits not bearing such tax can be readily imagined.

Yet no satisfactory sanction exists. Neither the Court nor the Commission can impose a fine on the French Government; the importers of Scotch whisky cannot avoid paying the unlawful tax by enacting in the Loi de Finances for 1981 a provision making reclaim of tax dependent upon proof that the tax was not passed on to the consumers, the French Government has made such reclaim as difficult as possible (how can it be proved at what price the whisky would have been sold in the absence of the discriminatory tax); there is, we understand, little prospect of obtaining significant damages for the reduction in sales because, although such reduction must inevitably have taken place, the amount of the reduction cannot in practice be quantified.

There is in such cases every incentive to a government to delay compliance with the law for the benefit of its Exchequer and the protection of national producers against competition. If it becomes the habit of governments to disregard the law for three or four years, Community law cannot but be brought into disrepute.

Yours faithfully,
H. F. O. BEWSHER,
Director-General,
The Scotch Whisky Association,
22 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, February 5.

Blood and Grail

From Professor David Lowenthal

Sir, May a geographer join a Latinist (Dr. Smith, January 27) discussion of Ben Hillier's (January 18) reference to Arcadia?

The legendary Arcadian fatherland referred to in *The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail* is an invention of Virgil, whose Eclogues catalogue that bleak and chilly Greek upland with the luxurious charms of Sicily. Forgotten throughout the Middle Ages, Virgil's Arcadia re-emerged only in the Renaissance. Moreover, the critical phrase, "in a majority or even a significant minority of Asian parents would favour separate Islamic or Hindu schools along the lines of the voluntary aided or maintained denominational schools and secondarily that retaining pride in their own cultural heritages" necessarily implies or involves the establishment of such institutions.

There is no evidence of a "growing demand" for separate schools. Those misguided ones who speak of the rights of ill-informed or improperly motivated. There is also confusion with the other topical concept of education in a multi-ethnic society, where the emphasis is on rewriting the curriculum and textbooks and reappraising policies and attitudes in order to accommodate the sensitivities, cultural and migration histories and religious beliefs of ethnic minorities. This is possible of achievement within the existing framework of education without

doing damage to the legitimate aspirations of religious minorities. The distinction between the denominational schools referred to by Mr Smith, all of which are rooted in the same basic Judeo-Christian cultural ethos, and those proposed for the Islamic and Hindu faiths is that the latter will be almost wholly founded on colour. Of course Lord Scarman is right in saying that such schools would lead to sectarian divisions which would well down in fact on the road of apartheid. The sooner therefore this red herring of an issue is squashed the better it will be for everyone, for if the right balance is to be struck between the rights on the one hand and duties on the other of ethnic minorities still struggling against disadvantages as citizens in their new homeland, then the only way forward is by expansion of and absorption into the present social structure in the broad sense and not by creation of parallel institutions.

Yours faithfully,
R. K. D. SHAH,
Wayne & Company,
5 Laings Corner,
Mitcham Road,
Mitcham,
Surrey,
January 27.

A mature view

From Miss Julia Hobhouse

Sir, I obviously do not know the contents of the possible Channel 4 programme for the elderly, but it would seem to me that there is a need for just such a programme. Not on the lines of *Ovaline* culinary delicacies, I agree, but to give information of the services available to older people.

No elderly person deserves to be, or should be patronized, but the fact remains that there are elderly people who do not have relations or friends to look after them, and who may not be able to get about very easily and are therefore often unaware of the many organizations and facilities open to them.

Yours faithfully,
JULIA HOBHOUSE,
26 Bishop's Road, SW6.
February 4.

Mr Tebbit's Bill and the unions

From the General Secretary of the Engineers' and Managers' Association

Sir, My association does not take the view that no government must ever pass legislation of which trade unions do not approve. Nevertheless we, like other unions, are entitled to ask of any proposed legislation affecting us, what is its purpose? Is it merely to weaken trade unions or is it to improve industrial relations overall? In our view it is the latter question to which any proposed legislation in this field should address itself.

By that test, Mr Tebbit's Bill fails. It is simply an anti-union Bill, even if it is on a good deal less ferocious than many expected at the time that Mr Tebbit was appointed.

There is not a word in the Bill directed towards the development of improved worker participation arrangements, which is the single most important industrial relations reform required in this country.

The Bill proposes to outlaw labour only contracts, a feature which is much applauded in the press. This needs to be considered however in relation to the withdrawal of statutory procedures for determining trade union recognition issues, which was a feature of Mr Prior's earlier legislation. The effect, therefore, is a positive discouragement of trade union recruitment, and of those recruited obtaining recognition from their employers for bargaining purposes.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN LYONS, General Secretary,
Engineers' and Managers' Association,
Station House,
Fox Lane North,
Chertsey,
Surrey,
February 8.

The British fisherman

From Mr Robert Battersby, MEP for Humberdale (Conservative)

Sir, Captain Roskill is to be applauded in underlining, in his letter of January 30, the fact that the naval defence of these islands, which cost the lives of thousands of our fishermen in the two World Wars, is very dependent on the fishing fleet as a source of auxiliary vessels and skilled versatile crews.

However, I cannot agree that the British nation has lost, or is losing, its hardy breed of fishermen. Today's total of over 23,000 is 1,000 higher than the mid-1960s' level and the 1975 fleet of 7,000 registered fishing vessels is 1,300 more than the 1970 fleet. Over 100 of the large distant water boats, mainly from Hull, have either been transferred during the decade to oil rig standby duty, sold overseas, or scrapped, but over 1,300 smaller new inshore and middle-water boats have joined the fleet over the same period.

The fall in numbers from 43,000 fishermen in 1937 to 22,000 in the 1960s and 23,000 today is mainly due to the remarkable increase in efficiency and productivity brought about by diesel power, improved design and gear, electronics, and our fishermen's ability to adapt. Britain caught the same quantity of fish in 1978, one million tons, as she

Ethnic schools

From Mr R. K. D. Shah

Sir, Not only has Mr David Smith failed (letter, January 26) to counter Lord Scarman's timely and authoritative repudiation of the idea of ethnic schools with any sound argument, but he is wrong in assuming first that a majority or even a significant minority of Asian parents would favour separate Islamic or Hindu schools along the lines of the voluntary aided or maintained denominational schools and secondarily that retaining pride in their own cultural heritages necessarily implies or involves the establishment of such institutions.

There is no evidence of a "growing demand" for separate schools. Those misguided ones who speak of the rights of ill-informed or improperly motivated. There is also confusion with the other topical concept of education in a multi-ethnic society, where the emphasis is on rewriting the curriculum and textbooks and reappraising policies and attitudes in order to accommodate the sensitivities, cultural and migration histories and religious beliefs of ethnic minorities. This is possible of achievement within the existing framework of education without

Victims of rape

From Dr Raine E. I. Roberts

Sir, Now that the acute phase of public disquiet and unease concerning the fate of victims of sexual offences appears to have subsided, it is time to make a cool appraisal of the situation and to look at ways in which their ordeal can be lessened without interfering with the course of justice. Indeed, if victims felt that their own case would be better served by a woman doctor and offered help, many more might come forward and justice be better served.

The Heilbron committee recommended in 1976 that the victims of sexual assault should be able to see a woman doctor and that they should be examined away from the accusatory atmosphere of the police station in a doctor's surgery or hospital, but I have evidence that it is less likely for this to occur now than it was in 1976. Even when a woman doctor is available the victim is often not told of this.

Until fairly recently, the Greater Manchester police asked women police surgeons to see these cases, usually away from the police station. Most victims were seen by one of three women

Slimming course for universities

From Mr R. G. Chapman

Sir, May I through your columns reply to the protest against cuts in Government funding to universities made by the Vice-Chancellor of London University (feature, February 2).

My qualification for doing so is that I am an unrepentant member of the public at large, which the vice-chancellor mentions, who is making no outcry about these cuts. I am also an alumnus, for whose financial assistance the vice-chancellor hankers, of one of the older universities (five very happy if you are using theirs, some 30 years ago). I must admit that I would not have donated one penny to the vice-chancellor for the universities during the 20 years of governmental largesse, nor would I now.

To combat the indifference of the public the vice-chancellor dwells upon the value of a most selective group of disciplines: medicine, dentistry, chemistry, electronics, engineering and the law. Few would disagree that these subjects are necessary and well suited to be studied at university.

But what of the subjects that the vice-chancellor fails to mention? The public at large might wonder if the Government needs to finance over 100 courses at 42 universities.

It might also question the necessity in difficult and economic times of such courses as physical education, sports science and recreation management, peace studies, brewing, public policy-making and administration, or social studies with social work, to quote very briefly from a publication made for the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals. By omitting such subjects from his paragraphs does the vice-chancellor, perhaps, sense that the public is not so convinced of their academic worth?

It is the vast expansion both of universities and their range of subjects that has, I suspect, lowered the status of the university world in the public view and has led the public to accept as reasonable these cuts. There is a feeling, however wrong it may be, that the common rooms of power (like the corridors) are no longer "British" in the public service but have become, as well, a self-service.

The vice-chancellor opens his article by quoting a car sticker, "Britain needs its universities", and asks if 10,000 stickers can be wrong. If I printed 20,000 stickers saying "Britain needs its universities fewer and smaller", might I not be right?

Yours faithfully,
R. G. CHAPMAN,
Deben Manor,
Saffron Walden, Essex.

Health partnership

From the Chief Executive of BUPA

Sir, The NHS and independent sector: your leader today (February 5) says so much about the problems, and in such balanced terms, that there is no call to repeat it.

There are two points only upon which I would like to briefly comment. Growth in health insurance in 1981, in percentage terms, was only half that of 1980. My colleagues and I never thought that those prophets who, twelve months ago, talked confidently of one in five of the population being privately insured by 1985, were right. Now we can see that the curve, as we expected, is flattening out.

Next, to emphasise that our aim is yours: to discuss and cooperate with any and every other willing and interested party — and Party — to produce a "mutually beneficial partnership". It is unfortunate that the strongly doctrinaire approach of a minority which exists in the United Kingdom currently presents obstacles to such collaboration. We for our part would be very willing to explore with anyone, whether initially they agree with us or not, to secure the maximum of agreement in the interests of the community.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK V. DAMERELL,
Chief Executive,
British United Provident Association,
Provident House,
Essex Street, WC2.

The Tawney tradition

From Mr John Horam, MP for Gateshead West (Social Democrat)

Sir, Since there have been quite a few letters about it, may I just set the record straight about the Tawney Society. It is not the SDP's "think tank"; indeed it has no official standing in the party at all. It is simply a group of party members who have got together to think about policy from a particular point of view — and nothing wrong in that.

Where they have gone wrong is to invoke the name of R. H. Tawney who, great man though he was, was undoubtedly a socialist, and socialists belong in the Labour Party, not the SDP.

Yours, etc.
JOHN HORAM, Vice-chairman,
SDP Policy Committee,
House of Commons.

From Mr Gordon Smith

Sir, What would Tawney have thought about his enforced association with the SDP? How, for that matter, would Quintus Fabius Maximus have regarded his intimate connexion with the Labour Party?

Yours faithfully,
GORDON SMITH,
London School of Economics
and Political Science,
Houghton Street, WC2.
February 8.

THE ARTS

Galleries

The mysterious distance

1982 Contemporary Japanese Art Exhibition

Camden Arts Centre

Canadian Art in Britain: Contemporary Works from Collections in Britain

Canada House Cultural Centre Gallery

Robert Young: New Works

Redfern Gallery

It is always useful to be given even the faintest sketch of what is going on in countries whose contemporary art is much less known to us than the art of their past, or perhaps is hardly known at all. Naturally we have always to take into account the inevitability that any selection is open to question, and consider the views of natives that what we are being shown does not at all represent the overall picture as they see it. The existence of such views does at least prevent us from making any too facile generalizations, but it does not stop us from reacting and, if possible, enjoying.

The show of Japanese Contemporary Art at Camden Arts Centre until February 21, which nicely rounds out the London Japanese season launched by the Royal Academy's Great Japan Exhibition (still to be seen until the same date, incidentally), is just the kind where warnings against facile generalizations are particularly necessary. The picture of current Japanese art it presents is so consistent and coherent that one immediately begins to wonder whether this can possibly represent accurately the totality of artistic activity in Japan at the moment, or whether it is just the element the show's selectors particularly approve of, or, since it is organized by the Japan Art and Culture Association, the element they think should prove particularly acceptable and comprehensible abroad.

Here I must disclaim any special on-the-spot knowledge which would enable me to answer these questions one way or the

other. But it does all seem to me suspiciously tidy, as though carefully angled to exemplify just what we might expect the special sensibilities which shaped the art of the Edo period at the Academy to be doing faced with the challenge of the modern world. From the Victoria and Albert's Japan Style exhibition a couple of years ago we learnt — if we ever doubted it — that the Japanese could be as flashy and vulgar as any other nation. At Camden Arts Centre all is elegance, delicacy and subtlety. Most of the art shown is abstract, and there are few strident colours, and there is virtually no exoticism: only Jyosaku Maeda with his electric-coloured mandarin art introduces a definably oriental flavour, and then hardly more than many psychedelic artists toyed with in the stoned Sixties.

To leave aside speculation on what we are not being shown, it must be admitted that what we are shown is remarkably and almost uniformly distinguished. Those who are worried by a certain coldness at the heart of classic Japanese art will find just the same teasing and mysterious distance here; those who appreciate that art, and who witness the ultimate in stylistic refinement will discover that modern Japanese artists have lost none of their ancestors' delicacy and precision in conjuring the maximum out of the minimum. There is a devotion here, witnessed again and again, to nuances of texture defining and articulating form. Katsumi Hirose, for example, gets his effects in *Marking is the Colour* — a from setting ordinary graphite pencil markings against stainless steel; Yoshimi Ohba in *Orbit* — black on black gets most of his effect from shiny versus dull black; Shiochi Ida handles colour fields with infinite delicacy in his *Surface is the Between* pastels.

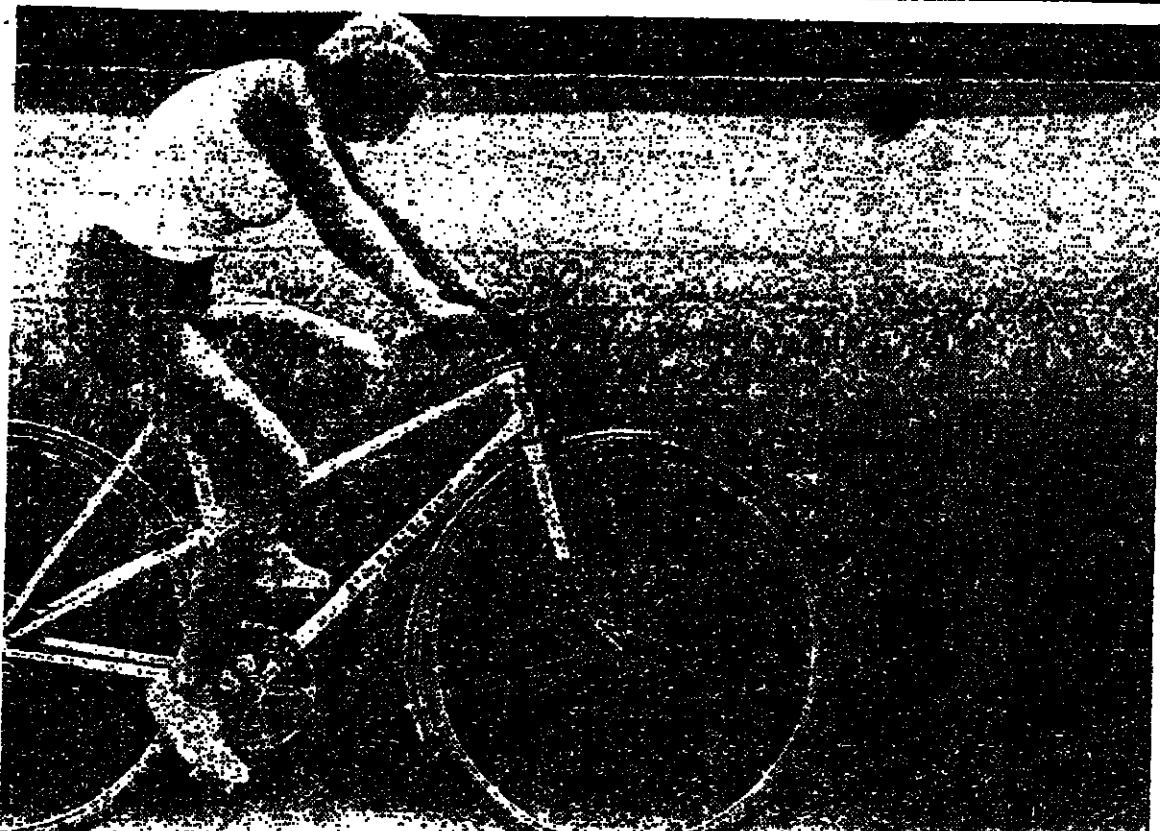
It might be guessed from these titles that the Japanese like oracular titles. They also seem to like unexpected media. The large-scale pencil drawing, which tends to be looked down on in the West, is a popular form in Japan. And there are surprisingly many works using needle and thread to impressive effect, as in Katsuhito Asaka's *Horizontal Threads* (misdistributed in the exhibition and mislabelled in the catalogue), Tsuyoshi Makiwara's *Length*, which pleats cloth across a sewn image, and Kōji Okuda's *In and Out* — a-3, which does it all with pin-pricks in white paper and a real sewing thread. And then there are Susumu Koshimizu's two wooden *Reliefs*, which incise

simple lines on a plane surface and make most of their effect from the colours and textures of the natural wood itself in immaculately matched planks.

If there are all a little parified, we can always come back to the jolly, cartoonish yet always elegant and economical paintings of Ay-O, or the colour photographs of Akira Komoto, who places abstract artworks in landscapes as if they have grown there. Surely Japanese art today must have feet of clay hidden away somewhere. But surely also it would be perverse to wish them exhibited in Arkwright Road, when we have so much divine grace and detachment in their stead?

Not only do most of us know very little about the present state of Canadian art, but we do not even have any picture of its historical background to clue us in. That, presumably, is one of the things the newly rearranged and refurbished gallery at Canada House, now part of the Canadian Cultural Centre, is designed to remedy. Cunningly as well as conveniently, it begins its programme with a show of Canadian Art in Britain (until March 3), contemporary works selected from public and private collections. These, and their presence in our midst, at least prove that some of us know more than we think about what has been going on in Canada in the last half-century. They also remind us of some things we ought to know but tend to forget: that Riopelle, for instance, is Canadian, and, though we usually think of him (correctly) as a leading figure among the Ecole-de-Paris abstractionists of the Fifties, he did also have an important and relevant context in the Canadian art of the time.

Naturally a show such as this, chosen from material available on the spot, is even less likely to be truly representative than the Japanese show, which suffered no such constraints. However, the Canadian selection is much more catholic, and interprets "contemporary" much more loosely, so that we get at least a glimpse of most of the major artists and movements which have affected Canadian art in the last three decades. The little group of Fifties abstracts, including Riopelle, Borduas and Hurlbut, comes over now with peculiar vividness, as an epilogue to Beaubourg's Paris-Paris show. The mid-century work, which has affected Canadian art in the last three decades, including Riopelle, Borduas and Hurlbut, comes over now with peculiar vividness, as an epilogue to Beaubourg's Paris-Paris show. The mid-century work, which has affected Canadian art in the last three decades, including Riopelle, Borduas and Hurlbut, comes over now with peculiar vividness, as an epilogue to Beaubourg's Paris-Paris show.



Alex Colville's memorable "Cyclist and Crow"; and (left) Ay-O's jolly yet elegant "The story of a line No 100"



which make one look forward to the one-man show the gallery promises for October.

Apart from the abstracts, the most generally pleasing works in the show are those touched, about the same time, by international surrealism, such as Jean Dailly's *Sebastiano*, which is just far enough away to have acquired a certain period charm (while Ladislav Guderna, working in a similar style now, merely looks dated), and the handful of canvases by the new generation of

superrealists. Some of them, such as Tom Forrestall, Alex Colville and D. P. Brown, have already been exhibited over here with some success. In the present context Alex Colville especially stands out, his *Cyclist and Crow* is perhaps the single most memorable painting in the show, and the series of screenprints for *A Book of Hours* also helps to show why he has been a key figure among the Canadian Magic Realists, and why they emphasize the magic as much as the realism.

Another Canadian artist, Robert Young, is at present having a one-man show in London at the Redfern Gallery (until February 25). This particular collection of recent paintings, papers, collages, drawings and prints contains an interesting trap for the unwary. In the debate which has been going on (pointlessly but incessantly) about the legitimacy of using photographs in any way preparatory to painting, highly realistic art has usually been in question. In Robert Young's work we must gradually become aware that all the pieces on show are based on the same general configuration of abstract shapes, which are rounded, squared off, analyzed, synthesized, tarted up or brutally reduced to basics. Then finally, tucked away at the back, we come upon the photograph on which they are all based: a wall from which the different layers of paper have been torn at random before it was patched and replastered. If photographs should not be used even as a sketchbook for surrealistic painting, where does Young stand, using a photograph in just the same way as a means to stylized, easily opposite ends? And since the resultant works are subtle, expressive and individual, who finally cares?

John Russell Taylor

Cinema

Business as usual—but in private

In the period since I last reported on the fate of some of Poland's leading film-makers, the country has been signs of the military regime's eagerness to restore an appearance of normality to film activities as to other areas of the country's life.

The most notable indication of this was the abrupt appearance of a Polish delegation halfway through the recent Manila Film Festival. The delegation had apparently been handed their passports only a couple of hours before their flight was due to leave, and they arrived with hardly a dollar's worth of currency between them. They carried with them the prints of the films originally scheduled for the festival programme—including, surprisingly, Andrzej Wajda's *Man of Iron*, which has been vociferously attacked by the authorities.

Presumably the official rationale is that the film has already been so widely shown abroad that such propaganda damage as it may now do is

slight compared to the commercial advantage of foreign sales. (The Russians have quite frequently shown them market abroad films which have not been considered especially desirable for home consumption.) Distributors attempting to do business with the representatives of Film Polski found the Poles driving hard bargains for their pictures: clearly they have come with commissions to stick out for top hard-currency prices.

Meanwhile at home, too, there is an effort to present a front of normality in the film industry. Despite the attacks on Wajda and my own forebodings about his immediate future in a previous article, he still heads the Film Unit "X" as before December 13. In the absence of Krzysztof Zanussi, *Kryzys* of Kieslowski (whose *Camera Buff* can currently be seen in London) is acting head of the Tor Unit. Friends say, however, that Kieslowski has made all the

necessary arrangements to change his career from movies to taxi-driving should the need arise.

Hardliners have apparently now been moved into the higher administrative posts, however, and the appearance of continuity is misleading. Most of the film projects approved before December 13 have been countermanded. Since martial law regulations prohibit location shooting, work can only continue on such pictures as can be completed inside the studios.

No prominent film-maker now appears to remain in custody. The most serious victim of the first weeks of martial law seems to have been the director Kazimierz Kutz. Kutz's more recent films have all been set in the Silesian coal fields. The latest of them, *Beads of One Rosary*, due to open in London shortly, is one of the most forceful documents on the social decay of the late Seventies — partly because it works through the potent medium of comedy, and more

importantly because it is the only film which shows clearly how callously, cynically and dismissively the socialist establishment has come to treat the ordinary worker and citizen.

December found Kutz back in Silesia, the scene of the fiercest opposition to the military takeover. It is thought that Kutz took part in direct political protest, which led to his being beaten up by the police with a severity that (given that Kutz is 53 years old and not an exceptionally robust) has given grave concern to his friends.

Meanwhile another prominent director, Agnieszka Holland, remains in Paris; while Krzysztof Zanussi's absence abroad is to be further prolonged since he is shooting in Berlin this week on a production for German television. The film, tentatively titled *The Unapproachable*, will be in English, and stars Leslie Caron.

David Robinson



Wilson: extraordinary privilege

Interview

Extravaganza man

Andrew Wilson was born into a Reading family all of whom had funny names. So he endured a second christening as Snoo, which has stuck and become indelibly identified with his wild theatrical vision.

"I'm an eclectic English surrealist and there aren't many of them around. The surrealists made the discovery that there is a field of symbolism and imagery that is free of censure. I am not sure whether my desire for extravagance is a direct response to the Arts Council's cutbacks, but they are not unconnected."

At 33, with between 12 and 15 stage plays (his own count) behind him as well as "five or six" television plays, his desire for extravagance achieves prolific expression, a rate of work partly dictated by economics.

He has also now completed a novel based on his play *Space Ache* and is working on a film for Channel Four entitled *Shady*. In New York his *Soul of the White Ant* has opened and he has been commissioned to write a play about a conjurer called *Living Reno*. But for the time being he is at the Bush Theatre shaping *The Number of the Beast*, opening on Wednesday, a new version of his play *The Beast* which was staged by the Royal Shakespeare Company in 1974. (*The Beast* of the title is Aleister Crowley, played by John Stride.)

"I've changed the order of the acts, discarded a lot of

the history. People knew less about Aleister Crowley in those days so there was more of a necessity to write a history. The plot is the same, but previously the play dealt with the background, the urbanization of nineteenth-century England and fundamentalism. Now it has been substantially rewritten to include more of his personal conflicts in the light of his religious beliefs."

Wilson feels the RSC production was unsatisfactory despite its popularity. He came back to it as a result of a Bicentennial Fellowship in the United States which culminated last summer with him working on a new version with the New York Theatre Studio. The Bush production is the result of that reworking.

Why Crowley? "I am interested in the anthropology of religion, how cults get formed. For me as a writer it is a way of dramatizing desires and failures we all have. It's not to do with the theatricality of magic — theatre and magic are different things. There is magic in the play but it is not magical, no B movie stuff. It's more to do with the attitude to magic of those who see it as a solution to everyday life. In fact Crowley face to face is not nearly as lurid as one would like."

Wilson originally wrote the play before Charles Manson and his cult hit the headlines, but he notes curious parallels — the removal of the individ-

ual from society, "the Byronic exile syndrome". That removal from the everyday has always been the most obvious characteristic of Wilson's work.

Nevertheless, he sees his writing as unavoidably political and admits to similarities with those other two graduates of the Portable Theatre, David Hare and Howard Brenton. The Americans, who consistently show intense interest in his writing, are particularly keen on those similarities.

"I suspect that I am an anarchist, though I work within a very exact aesthetic consciousness. I write about political subjects from a very aesthetic point of view. I know we were all as — the removal of the individ-

as the years roll by we have had a rather separate development."

Wilson has an unusually matter-of-fact view of his craft, a sense that he is writing for a living and is privileged to be able to do it. This uncluttered direction in his life, he reckons, makes him a very traditional type of artist. "It's a matter of using theatre and language to expand people's consciousness, to make people so they make connections. That is one of the great opportunities of art. If people are coming to sit on their bums for a couple of hours you are allowed to do the most extraordinary things in this little box. What an extraordinary privilege that is."

Bryan Appleyard

Concerts

Brighton PO/ Carewe

Dome, Brighton

Grieg composed his only symphony when he was 20, a German-trained but already aware that his music must talk with a Scandinavian, not a sub-Teutonic, accent. The symphony was performed several times, only once complete, then Grieg withdrew the score and wrote on the front page: "Never to be performed". He considered it too Germanic for the typical Norwegian composer that he wished to be.

Last year, the score's guardians in Bergen decided that the composer's instruction might decently be disregarded. It was performed once again, at the Bergen Festival, and recorded. John Carewe, conducting The Fires of London there, heard the symphony, liked it, and

won permission to give the British premiere with his own symphony orchestra in Brighton.

I made a mental note to attend the local premiere, which took place on Sunday afternoon. The Brighton Philharmonic had been robbed of their premiere by the LSO's "unofficial" performance. Grieg's last month, little publicized and, unusually, not repeated later on South Bank. But British Grieg devotees had already been able to hear his symphony on a record, and the Brighton concert performance was a meritorious one anywhere else, so I went. Grieg's C minor Symphony is no masterpiece, but its invention is vivacious, seldom Teutonic. For example the jolly folk-dance scherzo, the cozy melodies of the Adagio, the fulsome second subjects of the outer movements, are not far away from the material of Grieg's eloquent Piano Concerto.

Singcircle

Round House

You can hardly open your mouth without making a fool of yourself. Any use of the voice is likely to be regarded as embarrassing, bizarre, terrifying or certifiable, unless it accords with the conventions we know as speech and song: even humming and whistling we tolerate only as marginal activities.

So there are acute problems of credibility facing any composer who tries to use "extended vocal techniques", who asks performers to spit out arrays of consonants, or sing on a belch, or hissing through pursed lips. Only with difficulty can we take these things as normal human behaviour, or even as music.

At this stage of the game, therefore, composers have to be fairly severe with themselves or else brave the consequences. One pleasure of Singcircle's new programme heard on Sunday in London before going on tour is that it offers examples of both approaches, the sophisticated and the cheerfully naive.

Denis Smalley's *Pneuma* is a work of spirit, often ethereal in tone and assimilating the new vocal sounds to drumbeats or metallic resonances. Trevor Wishart's *Anticardos* is all substance, thoroughly animal in the way it grows from the tongues, throats, lips and cheeks of its six performers.

Different, too, is the effect of the electronic equipment, which gives the Smalley piece an air of sleek professionalism and, in the Wishart, is used indelicately to probe the

This performance suggested that Grieg's orchestral technique was still inept; the string writing often did not tell against the rest of the orchestra. But his development sections and transitions are always engaging, positive, eager to move forward in musical argument.

It is a more substantial work than the Piano Concerto, less self-confident and less adept. Carewe did right to let us hear this presage of the masterly Grieg. He conducted it with plenty of sympathy and acumen. His strings, strongly disciplined by their leader, Irvine Ardritt, still have to acquire extra weight for future. The woodwind tucked strongly in a restrained account of Mozart's thirty-ninth symphony. But all music, when decently played, sounds woeful and comforting in Brighton Dome, after London's South Bank.

William Mann

fleshy protruberances and recesses of the human mouth. Similarly, the two works are quite unlike in their references. Smalley made me think of Stockhausen, which was not entirely helpful to his aims. Wishart made me think of zoos and children's games, which was fun.

There was more fun for all the family in Wishart's engaging pre-arranged chat, when he tried, with some success, to get the audience imitating his vocal tricks. However, a concert like this could well have done without the didactic introductions given by both composers, neither of whom seemed happy to be doing so. Their pieces, both short, would have stood better without thus being presented merely as illustrations of compositional method.

Paul Griffiths

Television Creature comforts

"The hind gut of a termite is a very special place to live," said Dr Lewis Thomas in the course of his Notes on a Biology Watcher on BBC2's Horizon last night. This conversation-stopper came while he was explaining that, but for the simplest cells, all organisms on earth are assemblages.

The termite is, apparently, a whole committee of creatures, a kind of involuntary co-operative, and we ourselves are by no means uncomplicated biologically. We house all kinds of odds and ends without which we would be in a mess. Bacteria, for instance, I have always thought of them as rather dangerous, things to be rid of as soon as possible. This is the kind of scientific illiteracy that Horizon doggedly and, as on this occasion, lucidly, sets out to dispel. I now appreciate that they can be benign. These little micro-organisms, unsung and unacclaimed, heave away in our cells, doing their own thing but contributing to our functioning at the same time. Without them "we would not move a muscle, drum a finger, think a thought."

The gist of Dr Thomas's message was that all forms of life are unique but interdependent, forming partnerships necessary for the survival of invader and invaded. Dr Thomas, who is 68, an immunologist and Chancellor of the Memorial Sloan Kettering Hospital in New York, one of the world's leading cancer centres, did it all very well.

Not only did he rehabilitate bacteria, for me at least, but he showed other fascinating observations he has collected in a long and distinguished career. He showed us the blue crab making love; how carefully the male moulded the female until she moulded and union was possible. Actually it is just as well the male is careful as the female has 16 legs and only mates once.

This was Dr Thomas's debut on British television and we are likely to see more of him, which would be welcome. He communicates, as they say, well. His presentation has a wry, kindly touch, somewhere between Galbraith and Colombo.

If you missed meeting your mitochondria — and there is no reason why I should tell you what they are — you can get to know about your hitherto anonymous lodgers on Sunday when Horizon, which was produced by Robin Bates for WGBH TV Boston, will be repeated.

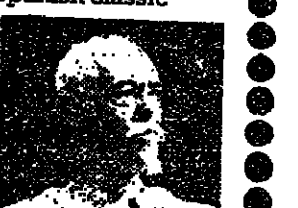
On BBC1, Police tackled the training of recruits, which now takes 12 weeks but may, if Lord Scarman has his way, take longer. We watched a sergeant being equipped, sworn in, talked to quite severely by a drill instructor, and lectured. They heard that working-class people do not mind being arrested and accept that it is likely that they have done something wrong. They will end up in a police station; that coloured people take an instant dislike to it; and that the poor and wealthy share this antipathy.

For all classes it must have been reassuring to hear the exhortation that, while offences were never to be ignored, arrests should only be made if there were good reasons. A mildly interesting programme, by Roger Graef and Charles Stewart, though not comprehensive. It left a lot of questions unanswered.

Dennis Hackett

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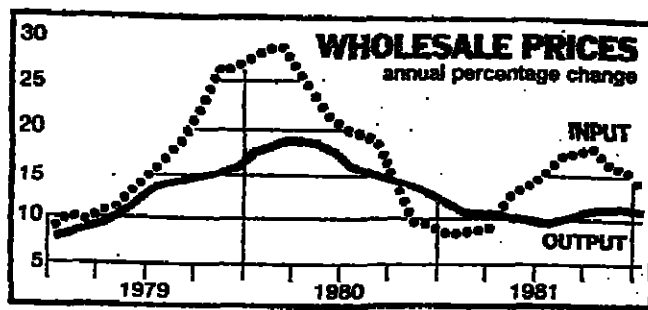
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Stanley Sadie

BUSINESS NEWS

Wholesale prices fall



The annual rate of increase in factory gate prices fell last month for the first time since July to 11 per cent from 11.1 per cent in December. This was despite an increase of 1 per cent in the month, due partly to seasonal bunching of price increases at the start of the year. Fuel and raw materials costs also rose sharply last month, by 0.8 per cent, with higher milk prices the chief culprit. But this was not enough to stop the downward trend since the autumn. The increase in input prices over 12 months fell to 13.4 per cent last month from 15.1 per cent in December.

Swansea to lose 100 jobs

Ashland United Kingdom Chemical, the United States-owned company which manufactures carbon black, is to close its Swansea factory in mid-May with the loss of 100 jobs. It blamed the fall in demand from the tyre and rubber industries for carbon black. "During the relatively short period of the last two years or so, we have seen two of our four United Kingdom competitors going out of business because of over-capacity in the said."

Sales figures rebased

The Department of Trade, which publishes the retail sales statistics, announced yesterday that the index is to be rebased on 1978=100 from January 1982, to be published later this month. The present base year is 1976. Final figures for retail sales in December show a seasonally adjusted drop of 1 per cent on the month, rather less than the 1 per cent fall indicated by the provisional figures. Sales in 1981 as a whole were up 2 per cent on 1980, with a small decline in food sales offset by a rise in non-food business.

Hughes grows in Belfast

Hughes Tool Company of Houston, Texas, is to expand in Belfast with another plant employing 250 within two years. It is to lease a 57,000 sq ft Government-owned factory at Monkstown where production will begin in the autumn, initially with 120 workers. The total investment including government grants will be £7m. Hughes was the first American company to establish manufacturing operation in Northern Ireland nearly 30 years ago and employs about 500 people at its existing factories in East Belfast.

Gill chief quits

Mr Pat Aitken has resigned as chairman of Gill & Duffus commodity traders. Mr D. C. F. Pearson has been appointed non-executive chairman and Mr R. E. Blackman will continue as deputy chairman but become group chief executive. The company lost £6m from unauthorized commodity dealing in Hongkong last year. The Soviet natural gas pipeline is a "Trojan Horse" threatening Europe's future security, Mr James Moat, Conservative MEP for London South, said yesterday. Europe would be 20 per cent dependent on Soviet supplies by 1990 if the project went ahead.

MARKET SUMMARY

Bank springs £750m surprise

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 570.7 down 7.4
FT 100 64.58 down 5.47
FT All share 327.83 down 2.1
Bargains 13,058

Fears of a further rise in United States interest rates kept buyers away and the market opened the final week of the long three-week account with the FT Index falling 7.4 to 570.7.

Gilt closed as much as £1 down in long dates after the Bank of England's surprise announcement of a new £750m tranche of the Exchequer 13.1 per cent 1987 stock.

Dealers said it was most unusual for the Bank to make a new issue on a Monday but it could suggest that money supply figures due today will be better than expected. Short dated ended down 1/4 in very thin trading.

Leading shares closed with falls ranging from 2p to 5p, with Becton 7p off at 242p, GEC 3p down at 322p, GKN slipping 3p to 183p and ICI, at 338p, down 4p.

Engineers were cautious ahead of half-year figures from the Dowty Group which may be accompanied by Thursday by news that the group has lost a major United States contract. Dowty lost 8p to 119p while British Aerospace was 5p easier at 190p and Smiths Industries shed 8p to 348p.

There was an early speculative flurry in the insurance sector which saw Eagle Star reach 347p but slip back to 347p, up 2p on the day. Insurance brokers benefited from the firmer dollar, with Willis Faber gaining 8p to 403p.

There was buying in television shares as Trident reported that revenue in the last quarter was 28 per cent up on the corresponding period. Among those marked up were Anglia, 1p better at 129p, and LWT also improving 1p to 135p.

Costain were a feature among building shares, gaining 2p to 274p on news of a Nigerian contract worth around £100m. But elsewhere dealers reported some selling as buyers held off from what has been a popular sector in recent weeks.

Blue Circle were down 6p, London Brick were unchanged at 76p after a broker's circular and Marley were also unchanged at 45p amid rumours of a possible rights issue.

Redland slipped 3p as the group was rumoured to be in line to take over Blue Circle's aggregates business after failing to acquire Hovevaghmore. The move would see the group included Rugby, down 1 1/2p at 95 1/2p, and Tarmac, 1p off at 435p.

Fisons were a bright spot and rose 7p to 248p following the sale of the fertilizer business and growing hopes of a bid. This comes after a 61p leap in the share price last week.

Figures due today gave a 10p boost to Amstrad to 240p while Donald Macpherson were up 2p at 85p.

COMMODITIES

● Rubber prices fell in sympathy with a weak Far Eastern market, reaching their lowest level during the present contract. March rubber closed at 47.9p a kilogramme while April was 48.9p a kilogramme.

● Tin prices eased a little yesterday after reaching record heights at the end of last week. Cash tin closed at £3,955 a tonne, down £15, and three months metal was £37 lower at £7,985 a tonne.

Trading continued at a reasonable level as dealers tried to decide whether to cover their positions or accept losses on the still wide backwardation. Prices were held by more offers of tin for immediate delivery.

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OTHER EXCHANGES

Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 1,332.52 down 42.18
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 7,779.41 down 22.47

CURRENCIES

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Opec ready to act on price-cutting threat

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Middle East oil producers are on the verge of calling an emergency meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) to discuss the dramatic state of price-cutting that is threatening stability on world oil markets.

Dr Mana Said al-Qutiba, the United Arab Emirates oil minister and President of Opec, is to discuss the possibility of an emergency session in talks this week with Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the Saudi oil minister.

The next scheduled Opec meeting is in Ecuador on May 20, but the present world oil glut has imposed intense pressure on the Saudi benchmark price of \$34 a barrel. Saudi crude is trading on the spot at a discount of at least 50 cents a barrel, while Iran is reported to be undercutting the official rate by about 80 cents.

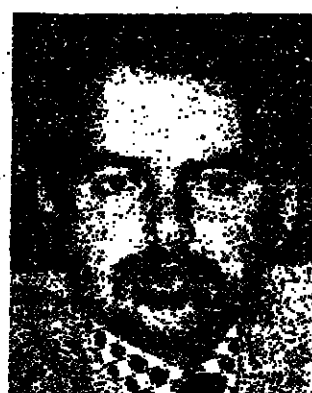
News of a possible Opec meeting came as the British Petroleum Oil Corporation confirmed a North Sea oil price cut of \$1.50 a barrel from midnight. This follows representations from British Petroleum which, like other big oil companies including Esso and Shell, has been making considerable losses on downstream refining operations in the United Kingdom and Europe.

Dr al-Qutiba, who was in London at the weekend for talks on the oil price, is now in Abu Dhabi where he is due to meet Sheikh Yamani and Sheikh Ali al-Sabahi, the Kuwaiti oil minister, at a session of the so-called International Energy Committee, an exclusive group of mainly Arab oilmen, bankers and economists.

He said he would be discussing with his counterparts the possibility of "adopting a decision on current conditions in the oil market at an emergency Opec conference".

Reports from the Gulf indicated that Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil producer, may reduce its present daily output of 8 million barrels in a bid to restore equilibrium to the oil market.

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ing that any reductions in the price of crude would not have short term effects in restoring stability to the oil market which was suffering from a severe shortage of demand. Saudi production is reported to have fallen below the 8 million barrels a day mark for the first time in recent years, but no official announcement is expected before the projected Opec meeting.

Iran's price cuts, made in an attempt to boost exports, could trigger similar moves elsewhere and upset the price re-unification achieved by Opec members last autumn. Kuwait is said to be angered by the reductions and has recently also criticized Saudi's "still too high levels" of output.

The decision by BNOG to trim prices is the first attempt by the state corporation to lead a downward trend. Since last year its rates have been tied firmly to the Saudi prices and North Sea oil has been sold at a premium of up to \$3 a barrel. Last night's move has reduced the differential over the official Saudi price to \$1 a barrel.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, is probably viewing the upheaval in the oil market with mixed feelings. The BNOG move could cost the Treasury up to £300m a year in tax but lower oil prices could reduce the pressure from industry in the United Kingdom for some relief from high energy costs in next month's Budget.

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President Reagan: forecasts Speaker Tip O'Neill: Democratic objections.

Congress condemns 'unrealistic' budget

From Bailey Morris, Washington, Feb 8

United States congressional budget officials today released details of a huge programme by programme breakdown of President Reagan's 1983 budget which claim to show that his economic forecasts are overly optimistic and the deficit greatly understated.

In an as yet unpublished document economists for the Congressional Budget Office say a more realistic forecast of the 1983 budget deficit is \$139,000m (£85,431m) up sharply from the \$91,500m projected in the Reagan budget.

The deficit will climb this high in the opinion of the Congressional Budget Office experts because Mr Reagan is unlikely to get the domestic cuts he has requested and because his basic economic assumptions are wrong.

The "overly optimistic" forecasts contained in Mr Reagan's new budget formally transmitted to Congress today are consistent with his past record, the analysts argue.

Twice recently Mr Reagan's forecasters have been wrong resulting in costly mistakes which have pushed the deficit upwards and sent new alarm signals to Wall Street, the report says.

From March, 1981, to January, 1982, for example, the administration has had to revise its outlay estimates upwards and its revenue estimates downwards to add \$56,900m to the deficit in 1982 alone.

The Congressional Budget Office report predicts this trend will continue and that deficits of well over \$100,000m can be expected for the next several years.

This will result in a severe credit crackdown as Federal deficits crowd business investment out of the markets by eating continuing high interest rates.

Based on the Congressional Budget Office calculations, interest rates in 1982 and 1983 will be significantly higher than the Reagan projection, rising to 12 per cent and 13.2 per cent respectively.

The Reagan forecasts predict rates of 11.7 per cent and 10.5 per cent during the two-year period.

Projections of less rapid growth are based on forecasts of slim export growth due to the high value of the dollar, a restrictive monetary policy and stagnation in spending by State and local governments.

There was some progress on improving the climate for British as well as other EEC exports to Japan in that Tokyo now accepted there was concern in Europe about the trade imbalance. Mr Biffen told the Japanese that in the United Kingdom there was serious concern particularly when there was such high unemployment.

Japan is not looking at the barriers to imports thrown up by domestic testing procedures and Mr Biffen asked particularly for simplification of regulations affecting pharmaceutical and chemical imports.

Japan could tackle the problem of its excessive imbalance of visible trade by directing orders to meet public sector requirements. Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade, said in London yesterday after his return from a trade visit to Japan and Korea.

In Tokyo, Mr Biffen pressed the Japanese Government on the performance claims of the British Aerospace 146 aircraft for use on internal air routes. He was less sanguine about the chances of securing defence orders in Japan which takes much of its needs from the United States.

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Stick with Smith and Nephew... Believe in Britain

Recession proof Elastoplast

Smith & Nephew makes Elastoplast, Nivea cream and many other products that have decorated British bathrooms for years. Despite unexciting investment ratios - prospective yield of 5 per cent and price/earnings of 15 per cent - a number of major investors are looking at the group with interest. The shares are nudging the 1980-2 highs.

Mr Kenneth Kemp, the chairman, says exports and overseas growth were the main reason for the 20 per cent rise in pre-tax profits in the current first half. James Capel considers the company has achieved consistent growth, benefits from lower sterling and has a number of promising new products.

Philipps and Drew maintains the shares are one of the most solid in the sector, since they are recession-proof. "Smith and Nephew is the share to buy when everything else is collapsing. This may be the wrong time in business cycle to get over-excited about them, but they are a solid performer," the broker says.

Un glamorous Elastoplast and Nivea cream are widely regarded as virtually recession-proof and have been responsible for upholding the company's rating throughout 1981.



Mr Kemp: exports boosting profits

Among other products, Op-Site, a type of plastic skin which protects wounds from infection, has been the most successful. Sales have been rocketing, with British output exported to the United States for packaging. But analysts expect Op-Site's lead to be short-lived. Entry into the market by a major company such as Johnson and Johnson would cut the generous margins Smith makes. This intervention is expected in about a year.

Another Smith product with a scientific market lead is Crystonite. It is a component in making

plaster casts which can be X-rayed and immersed in water. But it is also five times more expensive than existing products and this has restricted its success.

The ordinary share closed the day very close to the high for the year at 112p.

North Kalgurli seems to have got its wings after the bid from Metals Exploration. The chairman of the proposed expanded board remains Mr John Jones of North Kalgurli who was previously in the chair.

Our speciality is skill

Would you buy a small Welsh loss-making engineering company in the present state of the economy? Two chartered accountants have just done precisely that (Sally White writes). And they are not merely using it as a shell; they intend to stay in engineering.

The company is W. Williams & Sons of Caerphilly. The two accountants are Mr Nigel Rudd, 35, former troubleshooter to Mr John Mackenzie at London and Northern Group, and Mr Brian McGowan, 37, finance director in Hongkong for a Sime Darby offshoot. He, too, is ex-London and Northern, went on to P & O to be chief acquisitions man before joining Sime Darby.

Mr Rudd has built up a property and engineering group called C. Price since leaving London and Northern. This is the vehicle that has been used to buy a 51 per cent stake in Williams.

The shareholders they bought out are the Williams family, who started the business in 1905 as non-ferrous metal refiners. The company is now a 50-50 joint venture of the Williams family and the accountants.

engineering's specialized skills. For example, Williams owns a very profitable and well-known business reconditioning the rollers in steel mills. There is also a steel stockholding business that should be able to make more money. Then there is the advantage of bringing their wide range of experience to bear on what has been a local family run business.

Mr Rudd is now chairman, and Mr McGowan managing director. The company is now a 50-50 joint venture of the Williams family and the accountants. The Williams track record has deteriorated recently. In the half year to June 1980 the group lost £515,000 on turnover of £3,320,000. The last full year, 1979, saw a loss of nearly £750,000 on sales of £7.7m.

So why have Mr Rudd and Mr McGowan spent their money on Williams? They believe in British

engineering's specialized skills. For example, Williams owns a very profitable and well-known business reconditioning the rollers in steel mills. There is also a steel stockholding business that should be able to make more money. Then there is the advantage of bringing their wide range of experience to bear on what has been a local family run business.

tenness are very good, its developers say.

The developer of the technique is the Aloka company, a subsidiary of Japan Radio, the electronics and defence group. The volume of trading in the company's shares has increased about 20 times over the past few weeks.

The share price rose to 2050 (about £2.10), but has drifted down with the rest of the Tokyo equity market; and stands at ¥897.

Commentators on the Tokyo stock exchange say this volume increase highlights speculative desire to back a winner. No substantial rise in overall corporate profits is expected.

Internationally, fund managers have been persuaded that the shares are worth a gamble but analysts believe statistical data on the treatment's effectiveness so far has been slight.

Treatment of cancer by an argon laser is not in itself new, but Japan Radio claims its rivals have failed to develop diagnostic techniques. It is simple to operate and is relatively cheap at about ¥15m (£35,000) per machine.

Two series of trials have been carried out and a third series is in progress. The first was carried out at Tsukuba University last year, when the laser was tested on beagles suffering from throat cancer.

The tumours were exposed to the laser beam for 10 minutes a day, and on the ninth day, the cancer was eliminated.



INTERNATIONAL

JAPAN

Toshiba Corporation is planning a ¥20,000m (£445m) factory for development of (1 megabit RAM) super microchips capable of storing 15 times as much information as the 256k memory chips in production today.

A Toshiba spokesman said production of microchips for test purposes may start this summer.

● Nippon Light Metal Co., which is 50 per cent owned by Alcan Aluminium Ltd, plans to cut its workforce of 6,800 by 700 in the face of losses of ¥10,000m (£22.7m) for the year ending next March 31.

W GERMANY

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, has pledged substantial financial support for the impending merger of Krupp Stahl and Esch Hoesch Werke.

● West German wholesale turnover fell by a real 5.9 per cent in the first nine months of 1981 against the same period in 1980.

S AFRICA

South Africa's imports totalled R18,400m in 1981, up from R14,400m the previous year, according to preliminary figures released by the commissioner of Customs and Excise. Exports fell from R19,900m to R18,100m. Figures for sales of diamonds will be adjusted later to reflect receipts instead of shipment values.

● The state-owned Electricity Commission of South Africa has negotiated a \$250m seven-year loan from the international banks for a power plant at Matimba in the Transvaal.

FRANCE

Technip, the French industrial plant design and construction company, awarded a contract believed to worth more than Fr500m (£45m). The Algerian state-owned Chemical Industries Corporation to set up a flat glass plant at Jijel, on the Mediterranean coast.

GHANA

Ghanaians have begun handing in to banks their 50-cent notes, which will cease to be legal tender from Friday. The banks estimated that about 30 million of the notes are in circulation.

The notes, which are the largest denomination in the national currency, were ordered to be surrendered by the ruling Provisional National Defence Council to try to cut an inflated domestic money supply and curb price rises.

BOLIVIA

Bolivian tin miners were beginning a 48-hour strike yesterday in protest against the government's economic package which includes a 76 per cent devaluation of the peso and steep rises in the price of energy.

CAPITAL MARKETS

Crown Zellerbach floating 75m francs worth of 7 1/2 per cent maximum five-year notes on the Swiss capital market for private placement. The issue price is set at par by lead manager Union Bank of Switzerland.

Sumitomo Electric Industries will offer \$50m in 15-year convertible Eurobonds on March 9. The bonds will be issued at par, but the coupon rate has not been set yet, the company said. The issue will be managed by a syndicate headed by Citibank Europe and Kuwait Foreign Trading Contracting and Investment.

Toray Industries has set the conversion price for its February 4 issue of \$50m in convertible Eurobonds at 452 yen, the company said.

COMMODITIES

COPPER was steady. Afternoon higher grade cash, 50-55¢; three months, 55-60¢; six months, 60-65¢; one year, 65-70¢. UK Standard, 100-110¢. US Standard, 100-110¢. Higher grade cash, 100-110¢; three months, 110-120¢; six months, 120-130¢; one year, 130-140¢. UK Standard, 100-110¢. US Standard, 100-110¢.

SUGAR - The London daily price of white, prime, was 32.10¢ lower at 100-110¢. UK Standard, 100-110¢. US Standard, 100-110¢.

COFFEE - The London daily price of Arabica, prime, was 1.10¢ lower at 100-110¢. UK Standard, 100-110¢. US Standard, 100-110¢.

WHEAT - The London daily price of hard red winter, No 1, was 1.10¢ lower at 100-110¢. UK Standard, 100-110¢. US Standard, 100-110¢.

GRAIN - The London daily price of soft red winter, No 1, was 1.10¢ lower at 100-110¢. UK Standard, 100-110¢. US Standard, 100-110¢.

MEAT - The London daily price of beef, prime, was 1.10¢ lower at 100-110¢. UK Standard, 100-110¢. US Standard, 100-110¢.

POULTRY - The London daily price of broilers, live, was 1.10¢ lower at 100-110¢. UK Standard, 100-110¢. US Standard, 100-110¢.

EGG - The London daily price of large, fresh, was 1.10¢ lower at 100-110¢. UK Standard, 100-110¢. US Standard, 100-110¢.

Wool - The London daily price of New Zealand, No 1, was 1.10¢ lower at 100-110¢. UK Standard, 100-110¢. US Standard, 100-110¢.

Oil - The London daily price of Brent, No 1, was 1.10¢ lower at 100-110¢. UK Standard, 100-110¢. US Standard, 100-110¢.

Gold - The London daily price of 999.9, was 1.10¢ lower at 100-110¢. UK Standard, 100-110¢. US Standard, 100-110¢.

Silver - The London daily price of 999.9, was 1.10¢ lower at 100-110¢. UK Standard, 100-110¢. US Standard, 100-110¢.

Platinum - The London daily price of 999.9, was 1.10¢ lower at 100-110¢. UK Standard, 100-110¢. US Standard, 100-110¢.

Palladium - The London daily price of 999.9, was 1.10¢ lower at 100-110¢. UK Standard, 100-110¢. US Standard, 100-110¢.

Rhodium - The London daily price of 999.9, was 1.10¢ lower at 100-110¢. UK Standard, 100-110¢. US Standard, 100-110¢.

Pt/Cd - The London daily price of 999.9, was 1.10¢ lower at 100-110¢. UK Standard, 100-110¢. US Standard, 100-110¢.

Pt/Pd - The London daily price of 999.9, was 1.10¢ lower at 100-110¢. UK Standard, 100-110¢. US Standard, 100-110¢.

Pt/Rh - The London daily price of 999.9, was 1.10¢ lower at 100-110¢. UK Standard, 100-110¢. US Standard, 100-110¢.

Pt/Ir - The London daily price of 999.9, was 1.10¢ lower at 100-110¢. UK Standard, 100-110¢. US Standard, 100-110¢.

Pt/Au - The London daily price of 999.9, was 1.10¢ lower at 100-110¢. UK Standard, 100-110¢. US Standard, 100-110¢.

Pt/Ag - The London daily price of 999.9, was 1.10¢ lower at 100-110¢. UK Standard, 100-110¢. US Standard, 100-110¢.

Pt/Cu - The London daily price of 999.9, was 1.10¢ lower at 100-110¢. UK Standard, 100-110¢. US Standard, 100-110¢.

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Pt/Co - The London daily price of 999.9, was 1.10¢ lower at 100-110¢. UK Standard, 100-110¢. US Standard, 100-110¢.

Pt/Mn - The London daily price of 999.9, was 1.10¢ lower at 100-110¢. UK Standard, 100-110¢. US Standard, 100-110¢.

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BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

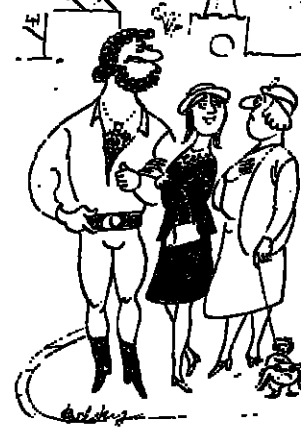
PEOPLE

A pilot to weather the calm

Finance directors are book-keeping bores in good times but the only chaps who count (and who can count) in bad ones. That is the conventional wisdom: but not it seems at Grattan, the Bradford mail order outfit, now making Mr Peter Lomas, aged 43, of John Collier, its new money box man. But what's this? Grattan has done without a finance director for nearly two years, and the last resigned amid a catalogue of woe. Grattan saw profits vanishing and borrowings mounting. It quarrelled with its auditors, suffered a going over by McKinsey, the management consultants, and failed to find someone to merge with. But Grattan has cut borrowings, revitalized profits and pressed ahead without a finance director, until now. Why bother now that the group is again the darling of the City? Grattan says that it did not need a finance director to tell them to cut back, and everyone knows that shrinking businesses absorb less money than expanding ones. Now it is time for all the directors to lift their eyes from mundane matters to sublime thoughts about what Grattan does next. This is where young Mr Lomas will be expected to contribute. Meanwhile, Mr Michael Pickard, chairman, a survivor of many a City dust-up can afford to laugh at his critics just as heartily as his one-time associate, Mr Robert Maxwell of Pergamon and British Printing.

Chauffeurs are back in Britain

Philip Poulton, the managing director of Britain's largest chauffeur-driven car hire firm is to get rid of the company's fleet of German and American cars and replace them with BL's Daimler Jaguars. Poulton founded Camelot Cars Couriers in 1960 and in 1973 sold it to Savoy Hotel Ltd. About a third of the Camelot fleet of 60 is made of German-made Ford Granada, VW's and even the odd American Lincoln Continental. He said yesterday that he was buying BL not because he had been able to screw a good price out of them, but because the back-up on new and even second-hand Jags was now "tremendous" and because he wanted to keep British workers in work.



A Crombie for Lewis

Illingworth Morris, famous for Crombie coats and Papal vestments, could have a new controlling shareholder within two months. Out go the flamboyant, out go the Hollywood chat show hostess Mrs Pamela Mason, and in (maybe) comes dapper Mr Alan Lewis, aged 43, whose socks match his claret tie. With 19 per cent of Illingworth already under his weight-trained belt, he normally does two hours a day in the gym — Mr Lewis hopes that the remaining Illingworth shares formerly looked after by Mrs Mason will go to him in eight weeks, giving him 46 per cent of the shares. Most of his empire, which includes an Isle of Man bank, a distribution company for Beechams and interests in Spain, are now private. Illingworth just needs a little financial management. They've got some good people there", he says.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Mr Simon Mounsey has been appointed managing director of Hays Business Services Limited, subsidiary of Hays Group. Mr Kenneth J. Walker and J. W. Ross are to be appointed directors of Provincial Insurance Company and also of its wholly-owned subsidiary, Provincial Life Assurance Company with effect from March. Sir David Roche has resigned as chairman of Carlton Real Estates but will continue as a member of the board as financial director. Mr Leo Christlun Toppin, a director, has been appointed chairman in his place. Mr Neil M. Foster has been appointed group managing director of The British & Commonwealth Shipping Company Ltd and Mr Geoffrey A. Adkin has been appointed group finance director with effect from March.

LAKER: Kevin Page assesses the airline's assets and the chances of selling them

What Sir Freddie has to sell

It is ironic that the great free marketeer, Sir Freddie Laker, has left the Receiver, Mr Bill Mackey, without much of a market to survey the bankrupt airline's assets. The second-hand market for aircraft is virtually moribund, with 140 wide-bodied jets on offer, so Mr Mackey faces the almost impossible task of attempting to pay off Laker's bank creditors, who are owed £210m, by selling the fleet of DC 10s and A 300 airbuses. However, Mr Mackey's immediate priority is to sell Laker's two holiday companies, Arrowsmith, which is based in Liverpool with an office in Manchester, and Laker Air Holidays, based at Gatwick. The deadline for a sale is tonight, and has been set by Mr Mackey because holidaymakers are already transferring bookings to other tour companies. Laker Air Holidays has around 150,000 bookings for 1982 with Arrowsmith attracting almost the same amount of customers. Last year, both companies achieved a pre-tax profit of roughly £10 per holiday. So assuming a similar performance in 1982 and a quick sale, Laker's profits from holidays are £25m each a year and little asset potential since most of the travel shops appear to be held on short leases. However it is the aircraft which form the bulk of

Laker's assets. The company owns six DC 10/10s, five DC 10/30s and three A300 Airbuses, bought a year ago with the £70m loan from the Midland Bank syndicate. The DC 10/10s have between 9,000 and 27,000 hours on the clock. Two were purchased in 1972, one each in 1974 and 1977 and a further two in 1979. All are said to be in high-grade condition. Mr Jordan A. Greene, president of Avmark Services of Miami, one of the world's leading authorities on second-hand aircraft, believes that in a healthy market, Laker's DC 10/10s could fetch a total of £69.5m. The five DC 10/30s could bring in a further £80.6m. However, there are already 40 DC 10/30s on the world market as well as 15 DC 10/10s. Mr Greene says the situation is so bad that he is jokingly advising prospective purchasers of second-hand planes to buy a forest instead so that they can make picture frames through which they can view the aircraft. Still, if the market were to pick up, the Laker's 11 DC 10s could be worth a total of £150.6m. And the three A 300 Airbuses could fare better. They cost Sir Freddie around £25m each a year ago and have not lost much of their value despite the fact that there are two on offer for lease and 15 more up for sale around the world. Airbuses are just starting to show up on the market, says Mr



Sir Freddie Laker: his company owned 14 aeroplanes with few buyers in prospect. Weekend hopes that Orion Bank would tie up a deal for the whole airline have collapsed.

Greene. Last year Eastern Airlines, the large US trunk carrier, bought two A 300s for £161.1m each. But the Receiver might be able to do rather better than Eastern since the Airbus deal was conducted at a preferential rate of interest. Through intra-subsidies, Sir Freddie effectively paid a rate of only 10.2 per cent instead of a market rate of around 15 per cent. This subsidy cost the British taxpayer some £3m. If this financing deal could be passed on to a buyer for the three airbuses, then Mr Mackey might be able to ask and receive say £20m each. Add this £60m to the £150.6m for the DC10 fleet of 11 aircraft and throw in say £3m for the holiday companies, and Mr Mackey would, in theory, have a grand total of £213.6m at his disposal. This would pay off Laker's bank debts of £210m although, including short-term liabilities minus credits, the total debt is probably somewhere between £230m and £270m. The theory is very much the key word however. The Avmark estimates assume there is a good market for second-hand aircraft and the absence of a forced sale.

Neither applies in Laker's case, although doubtless there are a few airlines which would like to pick up surplus DC10s and take on the national carriers on transatlantic routes despite the £322.6m losses incurred by International Air Travel Association members in 1981. Until air traffic growth improves and the fare structure sorts itself out, there is likely to be a glut of wide-bodied jets. Mr Mackey may be forced into selling off individual aircraft at bargain prices, although he would doubtless prefer a package deal. The rest of Laker's assets and liabilities are hidden from the public gaze as befits a privately-owned company. Laker Airways is registered in Jersey. Sir Freddie controls 90 per cent of the shares and one of his former wives owns the remaining 10 per cent. The last published accounts to March 1980 showed capital reserves of £23m, with most of the reserves consisting of unrealized exchange gain profits. The decline of Sterling will have wiped out most of Laker's reserves, leaving shareholders funds of just £6m, a trifle when set against the bank debt of £210m. All depends upon Mr Mackey's skill with second-hand aircraft in a moribund market. Still, he has experience of a sort as Receiver of Airfix money supply numbers, the model aircraft firm.

It acquired a formidable reputation as an imaginative and innovative bank in the international capital markets. By the late 1970s the consortium banking concept began to decay as the international ambitions of the big commercial banks grew and increasingly they found themselves in conflict with their consortium partners. One by one many of the other leading consortium banks were bought out by a single partner. Sometime during 1978 Mr David Montagu, Orion's founding chairman, reached that conclusion and attempted to persuade NatWest to buy out the other partners and merge it with NatWest's merchant banking subsidiary County Bank. The deal did not suit NatWest's international strategy.

It took another year or so before the Royal Bank of Canada's ambitions began to stir but by April last year it had reached agreement with the other partners to buy out their interest for around £45m. If it had succeeded where others failed in rescuing Laker, it would have really put itself on the merchant banking map. Orion will now have to look elsewhere to win its spurs.

But as a bank that has operated exclusively on the international stage for over a decade, Orion was set up in 1970 by six of the world's leading banks: National Westminster, Chase Manhattan, Royal Bank of Canada, Credit Italiano, Mitsubishi and Westdeutsche Landesbank. With that sort of pedigree, or quickly became one of the more successful consortium banks but by its own efforts

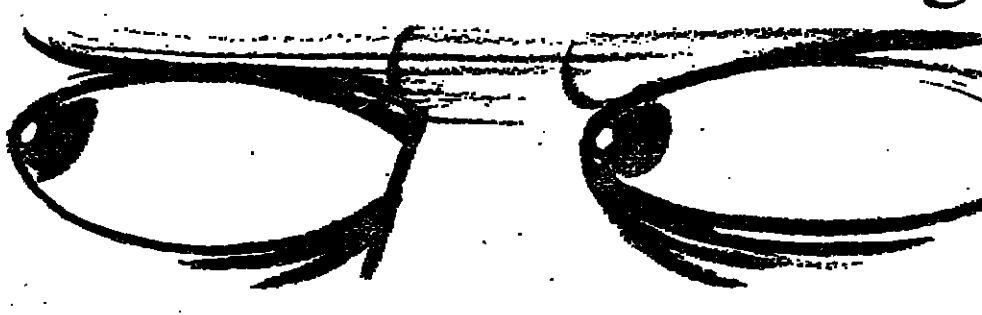
LAKER: Ronald Pullen on a rescue bid

Orion Bank fails the test

Orion Royal Bank could not have wished for a better stage from which to declaim its banking skills than Laker Airways. All the synthetic ballyhoo that has developed Laker over the weekend, Orion would have stood to gain immeasurable kudos in the banking world if it could have actually done the impossible and put together a group of investors to rescue the airline. There is just as likely to be success in failure too, since Orion has already gained more publicity than half a dozen low profile merger deals in taking the initiative where the cream of the British banking system has given up. Although there is some vested interest in that Orion's parent, the Royal Bank of Canada, is one of Laker's many creditors, the idea for a full-blown rescue package seems to have sprung up in the bank's growing mergers and acquisitions department headed by vice-chairman Christopher Chataway. Several leading bankers were openly sceptical yesterday about Orion's chances of success. That view also appeared to be shared by the receiver Mr Bill Mackey who said that he found it "astounding" that in an assignment which has engaged some of the finest financial brains in the banking industry, these people (Orion) have been able to discover a key to solve the problem. And in the event they proved right with Orion throwing in the towel late yesterday. In fact Orion is only playing the classic role of the merchant bank, using its wits to spot a deal where everyone else has failed. That is how the merchant banks have been playing their trade for the past 250 years. There is no easy explanation why it should be a newcomer like Orion and not one of the established accepting houses that should have popped up in the first place. It could be that several other financial institutions could have run into conflict of interest: they may be involved elsewhere in the airline industry, advising British Caledonian, say, or already involved in the privatization plans for British Airways.

Whitehall looks for a bargain

Whatever else may be in the offing for 1984, huge Big Brother-style advertising campaigns are on the way out. Far from increasing the amount it spends persuading the public to wear seat belts, insulate the loft or buy a TV licence, the Government is actually cutting its advertising expenditure substantially. In fact, making its advertising agencies work far harder for their money. This year the Central Office of Information, which acts as the advertising and marketing arm of the Government for all but a few campaigns, is spending £21m on advertising. Seven years ago it spent £15m, well over twice as much in real terms. From being one of the largest advertisers in the country, the COI is now being squeezed by many large marketing companies and all the signs are that its spending will be pegged in years to come, leaving it tagging even more far behind behind inflation.



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Government campaigns are good for business but are barely profitable, says the director of a top agency.

MARKETING AND ADVERTISING: GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

By Torin Douglas

Dane currently handles the business that is being reviewed, which means it has considerably more at stake than the others. Bessant emphasizes that the reason for the presentation is not dissatisfaction with Doyle Dane's work but simply the fact that the agency has had the accounts for ten years without having to compete for them. It also handles three other COI accounts which are not at risk this time. JWT also has COI business — the RAF officer recruitment account — but it would obviously like more, particularly after the much-publicized departure of the Guinness account last month. The third agency is a newcomer to the COI, TBWA, one of the brighter young agencies in London, which won awards all over the world last year for its animated Lego commercial. For such an agency it is a major coup to have got this far, since every agency large enough to handle accounts of £1m or more is anxious to get its hands on COI business. This is not simply because a Government contract repre-

Laker A moral

Whatever Orion Bank and other banks may do to pick up the pieces at Laker, the banks have come in for a fair bit of criticism over the airline's collapse. It is argued that either they should never have lent so much money to Laker in the first place, or, having done so, they should somehow have seen the company through its recent crisis. The first part of that criticism is more valid than the second. Sad it is to see Laker go under, but the banks have every right to decline to make fresh funds available on the basis of the evidence available to them. Laker had run into serious problems and there appeared to be no reasonable prospect of putting them right.

What is deemed to constitute a reasonable prospect may, of course, vary from one banker to the next. Conceivably, too, the judgment of some bankers may have been coloured by the thought that taking the risk of keeping Laker in business was prolonging the bloodbath on the transatlantic routes might ultimately have led to even more serious damage to their overall airline portfolios. But if that was the case, then one at least hopes that the colouring would have stemmed from straight commercial, rather than national or political considerations. At the end of the day, though, the heart of the matter is that Laker proved unable to justify refinancing on present performance or future prospects. And the group therefore, paid the penalty for having an

agency commission system was not in the public interest, the COI scrapped its commission payments and introduced a system whereby it would pay the production costs of a campaign, plus 25 per cent as a profit margin, up to a ceiling of 15 per cent of the agency's COI billings. There was an immediate outcry from agencies who opposed the scheme, partly because they thought their income would be reduced and partly because auditors would be brought in to check agencies' costs. The new system was to be subject to review and, though agencies fairly quickly accepted it, despite their initial opposition, Draper has revealed this week that the "cost-plus system" will be scrapped from April. This does not mean any financial respite for agencies, however, probably the reverse since each agency will now have to negotiate its own terms individually with the COI.

There is a major difference between a COI campaign and a product campaign, however. If an agency does a good job in selling a product, the chances are it will get a bigger budget the next year. If an agency does a good job for the COI and persuades enough people to join up or wear a seat-belt, there is a good chance that the COI will decide the campaign is not needed the following year.

Business Editor

Bowing to New York

Financial markets spent most of yesterday digesting the American budget proposal for the 1983 fiscal year and reassessing the present United States monetary situation. In terms of immediate market movements there was nothing too dramatic. But the mood on the whole was one of cautious optimism. American bonds slipped by up to a point in early trading and in London gilt, already slightly easier, tended to follow them down. Sterling, however, remained firm enough in terms of its index against a basket of currencies, and that will doubtless help to sustain hopes that British interest rates could yet fall another notch before too long — barring, of course, a calamitous rise in rates on the other side of the Atlantic.

Meanwhile, the market obsession with the week's American money supply figures has forced our own authorities to modify their tactics for issuing new tranches of gold edged stock. The problem that has arisen is quite simply that pricing a new stock for the traditional Friday afternoon announcement has been rendered too risky an exercise, coming as it does only hours before news of the latest United States money supply numbers. A conventional offer put out on a Monday instead of a Friday is considered no answer either. That would push application day forward to the following Friday when the market would presumably be in suspense awaiting the next set of American figures.

The stop-gap solution, therefore, is to announce on a Monday a stock that goes on tap immediately. In this case the stock is a further £750m tranche of Exchequer 13½ per cent 1987, priced at 93¼ per cent on the basis of mid-afternoon market price — a price that was in fact to fall in late trading.

While the Bank's action is probably sensible in the circumstances (and given that it insists on attaching its own pricing to each conventional issue), this is another comfortable reminder of just how dependent London has become on everything that happens in New York. The stop-gap solution, therefore, is to announce on a Monday a stock that goes on tap immediately. In this case the stock is a further £750m tranche of Exchequer 13½ per cent 1987, priced at 93¼ per cent on the basis of mid-afternoon market price — a price that was in fact to fall in late trading.

Prices Outlook fair

At face value, the 1 per cent rise in wholesale prices during January appears somewhat disappointing, reversing a steady downward trend. The latest increase is twice the rise posted in December. However, some bunching of price increases regularly occurs in the first month of the year, and this is actually a good deal less than some City analysts were predicting. Another good sign is that the year-on-year rate has turned down for the first time since last summer. It now stands at 11 per cent after peaking in December at 11½ per cent. There now seems to be a good chance that the year-on-year rate will move down over the next few months, possibly to the 9½ per cent level reached last summer, before the fall in the pound sent a new wave of price increases rippling through the economy.

A generally optimistic picture is reinforced by the trend in industrial material and fuel costs. These input prices rose much more in January than had been expected. The increase of 0.8 per cent compares with an increase of 0.5 per cent in December and a small fall in November. The explanation appears to be a jump in milk and electricity costs. The rise looks rather exceptional, but it is not enough to interrupt the downward trend in the year-on-year figure.

This is now down to 13½ per cent, after peaking in the autumn at over 18 per cent. With oil prices sliding and commodity prices still depressed by the world recession, the outlook for industry's fuel and materials costs looks promising. The one factor that could upset the position is the fragility of the exchange rate. A continuing rise in US interest rates could still put renewed pressure on the pound.

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75	62	Airsprung Group	70	—	4.7	6.7	11.1	15.4	—
51	33	Armstrong & Rhodes	44	—	4.3	9.8	3.7	8.3	—
205	187	Bardon Hill	204	—	9.7	4.8	9.9	12.1	—
104	77	Deborah Services	77	—	6.0	7.8	3.8	7.2	—
130	97	Frank Horsell	130	+1	6.4	4.9	11.2	24.1	—
80	39	Frederick Parker	80	+2	1.7	2.1	34.8	—	—
78	46	George Blair	50	—	—	—	—	—	—
102	93	IPC	96	—	7.3	7.6	6.9	10.4	—
105	100	Isis Conv Pref	105	—	15.7	15.0	—	—	—
113	94	Jackson Group	84	—	7.0	7.4	3.0	6.7	—
130	108	James Burroughs	112	—	8.7	7.8	8.2	10.3	—
334	250	Robert Jenkins	252	—	31.3	12.4	3.5	8.9	—
59	51	Scrutons "A"	56	—	5.3	9.5	8.6	8.0	—
222	164	Torday & Carlisle	164	—	10.7	6.5	5.3	9.8	—
15	10	Twinklind Ord	13	—	—	—	—	—	—
80	66	Twinklind 15% ULS	76	—	15.0	19.7	—	—	—
44	27	Unilock Holdings	27	—	3.0	11.1	4.8	8.2	—
103	75	Walter Alexander	75	—	6.4	8.5	4.9	8.7	—
263	212	W. S. Yeates	220	+1	13.1	6.0	4.2	8.5	—

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LOW TAR Manufacturer's estimate

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Legal Appointments

also on page 12

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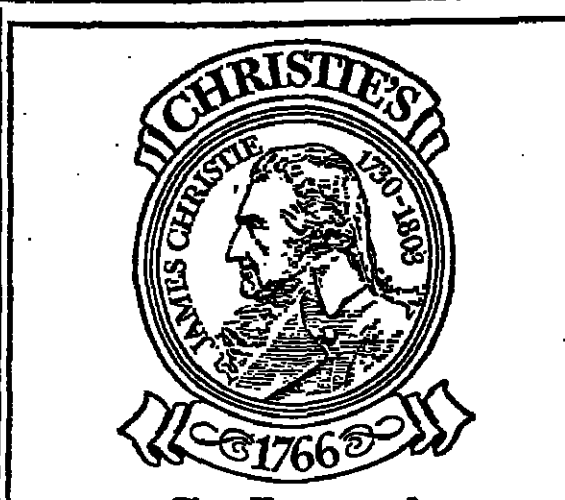
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Irishmen held in US linked with gun-running

From Christopher Thomas, New York, Feb 8

United States immigration authorities believe they have uncovered one of the Provisional IRA's most important gun-running rings with the arrest of five Belfast men near the Canadian border.

They were found on Saturday with nearly £10,000 in cash as they attempted to cross into the United States from Canada at the Whirlpool Bridge, Niagara Falls. According to immigration officials in Buffalo, where the men are being held, they all had Irish passports showing fraudulent photographs.

Mr William Truesdale, of the Department of Immigration and Naturalisation Service, said the men were carrying with them equipment capable of accurately reproducing the official Irish Government stamp. "It was used to stamp the passport photographs", he added.

Immigration officials claim to have seized a large amount of evidence suggesting that the men, three of whom are Canadian residents, were on a mission to buy substantial quantities of ammunition and small arms. One source said the men were carrying information that could lead to the identification of IRA contacts possibly in several parts of the world.

Mr Truesdale said the most important factor in reproducing

Eton chaps tetchy over fewer calls to the bar

By Alan Hamilton

Things just haven't been the same in the saloon bar of The Tap at Eton since Eric the landlord put up the shutters on morning opening. The regulars are complaining that he's ruined the atmosphere, packing them all in later in the day.

A chap has to have his cheque book like a football rattle just to get served, they say.

Back in the old days you could wander in for a quiet pint and a chat with your mates. Not now; and of course they won't get extra staff in for the busy times. The Coca Cola addicts don't help either, clogging the place up.

It's all very well the place being open from 2 to 2.30, and again from 4.30 to 6.15, not to mention an hour on Saturday evenings, but as well as chopping all morning drinking so that a chap has no longer any chance of a swift furtive between a slab of algebra and a drone of Latin grammar, the landlord has cut the week's drinking hours by five down to a miserable 13.

So what can a chap do? Get on to the papers for a start. The *Eton College Chronicle* has made much of it in its latest issue. Mr. J. H. Althorpe, the joint editor, is the Princess of Wales's brother. "The new rules, by restricting the hours to those times when The Tap gets crowded anyway, do not favour the great number of people who like to have a quiet pint just chatting to a few friends", the paper says.

Tap's purpose is to teach over-16-year-olds to drink socially. The *Chronicle* wants longer afternoon hours, saying that the morning sessions, abolished last term, were a bad idea, and calls for heavy fines as well as banning from the bar, which already operates for anyone who exceeds the limit of two pints of beer or cider.

Dr Eric Anderson, the Head Master of Eton, felt that 13 hours' tuition per week in social drinking was quite sufficient. He might have added, but did not, that there are few more useful social graces than the ability to catch a barman's eye, and the great number of people who like to have a quiet pint just chatting to a few friends, the paper says.

Tap's purpose is to teach



On target: Contestants in the Women's Interservice Rifle Shooting Championship at Lee-on-Solent, Hampshire, yesterday. From left, Susan Waincock, a Wren, Corporal Jo Macdonald and Senior Aircraftwoman Sandra Johnson.

The Westmorland connexion

Continued from page 1

A Philadelphia conglomerate called International Utilities, which owns a trucking company and an agricultural property in Hawaii.

Mr Leisnering, telephoned by *The Times* yesterday, said that he and Lord Westmorland were both business associates and friends. But Lord Westmorland had not known of the letter until after its publication and they had never discussed the buyer's premium.

He did not buy and sell at auction himself, but had heard of the workings of the premium through friends and family and formed his own view. Judging by a few newspaper clippings, he had been

sent from a relative in London, the press was very slanted against the auctioneers.

Asked about the lobby of support among American dealers for the London sale in their dispute, Mr Leisnering said: "The dealers probably do not like it (the premium) but they are not the only buyers. The dealers have had a 'grave train' both in London and New York. They do not constitute the bulk of buyers; there are thousands of individuals who constitute the bulk of buyers."

"The premium should be set at a reasonable level, and the dealers bear the brunt, he added. Mr Leisnering said he had written on personally-headed notepaper from 2500 Fidelity Building, the company's

address, because "it was my opinion and my own company has nothing to do with dealing in fine art."

Dealers in London reacted with cries of outrage. Mr David Mason, chairman of Macdonald-Mason, who has been in the forefront of criticism of the premium, went so far as to say: "The indignity now upon Lord Westmorland must surely have been his resignation, from not only Sotheby's but also from the Royal Household."

Mr Hugh Leggett, another London dealer, spoke of "the need for action from the whole of the art trade to cooperate to the full immediately with the Office of Fair Trading in view of the clear public interest and to restore confidence in London as the centre of the world art market."

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Frank Johnson in the Commons

Hard men take a swipe at the soft centre

Conservatives and Labour, at the height of yesterday's debate on the Government's trade union reform Bill, at last satisfied the demands of moderate folk and stopped attacking one another. They attacked the moderate folk instead.

The latter were represented by Mr William Rodgers, of the SDP. He rose to put his party's official policy on the Bill, which is to vote for it. This policy has caused a revolt among the working class rank and file of the parliamentary Social Democratic Party: Mr Eric Ogden and Mr John Grant, (Mr Ogden, before his election as a Labour member, was a miner. Mr Grant worked at the wordage as a Fleet Street industrial correspondent.)

This split, following as it did the opinion poll at the weekend which showed a fall in the SDP-Liberal Alliance lead over the other two parties, had raised Tory and Labour spirits enormously. They set upon Mr Rodgers the moment he rose. He began by reminding that Mr Norman Tebbit, the Secretary for Employment, and Mr Eric Varley, the Shadow Secretary, had indulged in the "old style cat and dog fight" in the speeches they had made opening the debate.

This priggish attitude enraged the two brutish factions facing each other across the Chamber. As they did when Eton was the problem, they joined forces to oppose this threat to all in which they believe. "I am happy to encourage them to behave in the traditional way", Mr Rodgers added, managing to be more inoffensive still.

This was a very bad Government. Mr Rodgers argued (Labour cheers). On the other hand, that did not mean that this was a bad Bill (Tory cheers). Furthermore, he had no time for Mr Tebbit (silent cheers from the Tory benches) a quarter and half (the Cabinet).

Mr Rodgers launched into a detailed discussion of what was wrong with the unions. In particular, he thought there was a lot to be said for people being required to contribute to paying the political levy. Mr Frank Haines (Ashfield, Lab) started to contribute a second opinion. "Did you say that when you were on the Government front bench?" Mr Haines asked.

Mr Haines kept this up rather admirably for some time. Suddenly, Mr Rodgers made the error of saying, "I want to be honest with the House." At this, there was much ribaldry, particularly from Mr Haines, who told him to listen because he might learn something. "Carry on, I'm learning at the time", observed Mr Haines.

"I'm a recent convert to this kind of legislation", Mr Rodgers continued, and renewed ribaldry. When Mr Haines answered something unpardonable, Mr Arthur Lewis (Newham, NW, Lab) was obviously provoked to whether many of us had heard it. So Mr Lewis repeated it. Being a considerable parliamentarian, however, he devised a way of doing so without either getting into trouble with the Speaker himself, or being disfavoured by his colleagues Mr Haines.

"Mr Speaker, is it in order, even if it is a bit of a twist?" asked Mr Lewis on a point of order device even by his standards. The Speaker replied that he had not heard what Mr Haines had said. Mr Haines rose. "All I am saying is that I'm the Member for Ashfield, not Mansfield", Mr Haines explained.

"I hope that's all the Hon Member is saying", the Speaker replied in his most censorious, wet Sunday in Wales, tone of voice. Mr Haines, of the Old Left, rose on a point of order. "That was all we needed. It could not be out of order to call anyone a 'twister' because that was an honoured, occupational name in the textile industry", Mr Haines helpfully explained.

"Everyone must speak for his own industry", the Speaker commented with a slight hint of impatience added to the Welsh. (Though he may well choose to deny himself some sort of humble bad-temperament when the mood takes him, Mr Haines has no known connexion with the textile industry, which is yet another area of specialist touch to these exchanges.)

By now, people had rather lost interest in Mr Rodgers' views on the reform of the unions. These views may well have been admirable, but long may men of ability, moderation and knowledge fall foul of the likes of Mr Lewis and Mr Haines. The House of Commons, often worse they would be even worse.

Democrats warm up for battle of the budget

From Bailey Morris, Washington, Feb 8

President Reagan met Democratic and Republican leaders at the White House today to begin the difficult task of selling his controversial 1983 budget to a fractious Congress.

The president's \$758,000m (£407,750m) budget, which calls for record reductions in domestic programmes - of \$26,000m and an unprecedented rise in defence spending - has been greeted coolly by members of both parties.

Mr Reagan said today, however, that he believes there is no real alternative to his programme and he asked leaders of both parties to support "the hard choices" he has made in the overall national interest.

Echoing this theme was Mr Howard Baker, majority leader of the Senate, who broke two days of silence on the President's programme to give it qualified support.

Mr Baker, describing America as teetering on the brink of bankruptcy, predicted the budget will pass with some modifications.

After the meeting, Mr Larry Speakes, a White House spokesman, was encouraged and believed his programme, which projects massive deficits over the next three years, would pass.

Democratic leaders said, however, that the budget will never be passed and they promised both an alternative budget and a programme-by-programme analysis of the Reagan budget as early as today.

"I think the democrats are going to win a lot of victories in Congress this year", Mr Thomas O'Neill, the Speaker of the House, said.

Call to arms, page 6
Murray moderate, page 6

Today's events

Royal engagements
The Queen holds an investiture, 11 and, with the Duke of Edinburgh, visits the British Veterinary Association, 12. The Prince of Wales, patron, attends a reception to mark the end of the International Year of Disabled People at 32 Gresham Place, SW1 7. Princess Alexandra visits the Charterhouse in Southwark, 12.

Exhibitions
The British Worker, photographs of working life, 1939-1959, Carlisle Museum and Art Gallery, Carlisle, 9 to 5. Japanese Festivals, an exhibition for children about Japanese life and traditions, Hange Castle Museum, 100 St Andrews Drive, Glasgow, 10 to 5.15. Vladimir Mayakovsky, Twenty years of work, Fruit Market Gallery, 29 Mark Lane, London, 10 to 5.30.

Photography
Photographer as printmaker, Royal Academy, Nottingham, 10 to 4.45. Watercolours and drawings by Freda Rees, 10 to 4.45. Photographs and drawings by Freda Rees, 10 to 4.45. Watercolours and drawings by Freda Rees, 10 to 4.45. Photographs and drawings by Freda Rees, 10 to 4.45.

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The Pound
Bank buys 1.78, 1.79, 1.80, 1.81, 1.82, 1.83, 1.84, 1.85, 1.86, 1.87, 1.88, 1.89, 1.90, 1.91, 1.92, 1.93, 1.94, 1.95, 1.96, 1.97, 1.98, 1.99, 2.00, 2.01, 2.02, 2.03, 2.04, 2.05, 2.06, 2.07, 2.08, 2.09, 2.10, 2.11, 2.12, 2.13, 2.14, 2.15, 2.16, 2.17, 2.18, 2.19, 2.20, 2.21, 2.22, 2.23, 2.24, 2.25, 2.26, 2.27, 2.28, 2.29, 2.30, 2.31, 2.32, 2.33, 2.34, 2.35, 2.36, 2.37, 2.38, 2.39, 2.40, 2.41, 2.42, 2.43, 2.44, 2.45, 2.46, 2.47, 2.48, 2.49, 2.50, 2.51, 2.52, 2.53, 2.54, 2.55, 2.56, 2.57, 2.58, 2.59, 2.60, 2.61, 2.62, 2.63, 2.64, 2.65, 2.66, 2.67, 2.68, 2.69, 2.70, 2.71, 2.72, 2.73, 2.74, 2.75, 2.76, 2.77, 2.78, 2.79, 2.80, 2.81, 2.82, 2.83, 2.84, 2.85, 2.86, 2.87, 2.88, 2.89, 2.90, 2.91, 2.92, 2.93, 2.94, 2.95, 2.96, 2.97, 2.98, 2.99, 3.00, 3.01, 3.02, 3.03, 3.04, 3.05, 3.06, 3.07, 3.08, 3.09, 3.10, 3.11, 3.12, 3.13, 3.14, 3.15, 3.16, 3.17, 3.18, 3.19, 3.20, 3.21, 3.22, 3.23, 3.24, 3.25, 3.26, 3.27, 3.28, 3.29, 3.30, 3.31, 3.32, 3.33, 3.34, 3.35, 3.36, 3.37, 3.38, 3.39, 3.40, 3.41, 3.42, 3.43, 3.44, 3.45, 3.46, 3.47, 3.48, 3.49, 3.50, 3.51, 3.52, 3.53, 3.54, 3.55, 3.56, 3.57, 3.58, 3.59, 3.60, 3.61, 3.62, 3.63, 3.64, 3.65, 3.66, 3.67, 3.68, 3.69, 3.70, 3.71, 3.72, 3.73, 3.74, 3.75, 3.76, 3.77, 3.78, 3.79, 3.80, 3.81, 3.82, 3.83, 3.84, 3.85, 3.86, 3.87, 3.88, 3.89, 3.90, 3.91, 3.92, 3.93, 3.94, 3.95, 3.96, 3.97, 3.98, 3.99, 4.00, 4.01, 4.02, 4.03, 4.04, 4.05, 4.06, 4.07, 4.08, 4.09, 4.10, 4.11, 4.12, 4.13, 4.14, 4.15, 4.16, 4.17, 4.18, 4.19, 4.20, 4.21, 4.22, 4.23, 4.24, 4.25, 4.26, 4.27, 4.28, 4.29, 4.30, 4.31, 4.32, 4.33, 4.34, 4.35, 4.36, 4.37, 4.38, 4.39, 4.40, 4.41, 4.42, 4.43, 4.44, 4.45, 4.46, 4.47, 4.48, 4.49, 4.50, 4.51, 4.52, 4.53, 4.54, 4.55, 4.56, 4.57, 4.58, 4.59, 4.60, 4.61, 4.62, 4.63, 4.64, 4.65, 4.66, 4.67, 4.68, 4.69, 4.70, 4.71, 4.72, 4.73, 4.74, 4.75, 4.76, 4.77, 4.78, 4.79, 4.80, 4.81, 4.82, 4.83, 4.84, 4.85, 4.86, 4.87, 4.88, 4.89, 4.90, 4.91, 4.92, 4.93, 4.94, 4.95, 4.96, 4.97, 4.98, 4.99, 5.00, 5.01, 5.02, 5.03, 5.04, 5.05, 5.06, 5.07, 5.08, 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6.75, 6.76, 6.77, 6.78, 6.79, 6.80, 6.81, 6.82, 6.83, 6.84, 6.85, 6.86, 6.87, 6.88, 6.89, 6.90, 6.91, 6.92, 6.93, 6.94, 6.95, 6.96, 6.97, 6.98, 6.99, 7.00, 7.01, 7.02, 7.03, 7.04, 7.05, 7.06, 7.07, 7.08, 7.09, 7.10, 7.11, 7.12, 7.13, 7.14, 7.15, 7.16, 7.17, 7.18, 7.19, 7.20, 7.21, 7.22, 7.23, 7.24, 7.25, 7.26, 7.27, 7.28, 7.29, 7.30, 7.31, 7.32, 7.33, 7.34, 7.35, 7.36, 7.37, 7.38, 7.39, 7.40, 7.41, 7.42, 7.43, 7.44, 7.45, 7.46, 7.47, 7.48, 7.49, 7.50, 7.51, 7.52, 7.53, 7.54, 7.55, 7.56, 7.57, 7.58, 7.59, 7.60, 7.61, 7.62, 7.63, 7.64, 7.65, 7.66, 7.67, 7.68, 7.69, 7.70, 7.71, 7.72, 7.73, 7.74, 7.75, 7.76, 7.77, 7.78, 7.79, 7.80, 7.81, 7.82, 7.83, 7.84, 7.85, 7.86, 7.87, 7.88, 7.89, 7.90, 7.91, 7.92, 7.93, 7.94, 7.95, 7.96, 7.97, 7.98, 7.99, 8.00, 8.01, 8.02, 8.03, 8.04, 8.05, 8.06, 8.07, 8.08, 8.09, 8.10, 8.11, 8.12, 8.13, 8.14, 8.15, 8.16, 8.17, 8.18, 8.19, 8.20, 8.21, 8.22, 8.23, 8.24, 8.25, 8.26, 8.27, 8.28, 8.29, 8.30, 8.31, 8.32, 8.33, 8.34, 8.35, 8.36, 8.37, 8.38, 8.39, 8.40, 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